

Refugees under constant attacks

BEIRUT (R) — Eleven Palestinian refugees have been killed, 10 wounded and seven have disappeared in an upsurge of attacks on them in Lebanon in the past two months, a United Nations agency said Friday. The violence, and a number of arrests of Palestinians, have occurred mainly in Beirut and Israeli-occupied South Lebanon, a statement by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said. Palestinian refugees have been affected by about 26 shelling or bombing incidents, said a statement by UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck who appealed to the forces controlling the various areas to protect civilian lives. Unexplained bombings which recently wrecked several Palestinian homes and shops in the southern city of Sidon coincided with mounting violent resistance to Israeli occupation.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
"جوردان تايمز" مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الرأي"

Arafat expected after African tour

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will visit Jordan after completing a pre-scheduled tour of several African countries which will start Tuesday. PLO sources told the Jordan Times Friday. The sources added that Mr. Arafat is expected to head a meeting of the Central Committee of Fateh in Tunis within the next 48 hours. Mr. Arafat will then embark on a tour of African countries followed by a trip to several Arab countries, they added. The sources did not specify the Arab countries included in the visit, but said that Mr. Arafat will come to Jordan to resume talks on joint political moves in Middle East peace efforts.

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Cabinet to meet Sundays and Fridays

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat has decided that the cabinet holds two sessions a week, Sunday and Friday. The sessions will take place in the afternoon after office hours, so as to enable the ministers to handle their ministry's affairs during office hours, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Iran threatens Iraqi pipeline

LONDON (Agencies) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Rafsanjani said Tuesday Iran would close Iraq's only remaining outlet for its oil exports, a pipeline from northern Iraq through Turkey to the Mediterranean, the national news agency IRNA reported. On Thursday, Iraq said Iran has mobilised about 300,000 men on its borders and Baghdad was expecting a new Iranian offensive in the three-year-old Gulf war.

'U.S. fleet fears suicide attacks'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Television reported Thursday that U.S. naval units in the Eastern Mediterranean are on high alert in fear of suicidal "kamikaze-style" air attacks. The television report said American planes closely observe all flights entering or leaving Israeli and Lebanese air space.

Haig assails Reagan

NEW YORK (R) — The Reagan administration talked tough for too long with the Soviet Union and made a mistake by sending troops into Lebanon, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig said Thursday. Mr. Haig said in a CBS television interview: "It's clear that the rhetoric in the early days of the administration, while it was essential at the outset, probably went a little too long."

Wounded Frenchman dies in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — The driver of the French consul in Beirut, in a coma since he was shot by a gunman more than two weeks ago, died in hospital Thursday, the French embassy said.

U.S.: Bahai's under persecution in Iran

WASHINGTON (A.P.) — The State Department said Thursday it has received reports that the Iranian government arrested some 250 members of the Baha'i faith between November and early January.

Israeli arrested for grenade attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (A.P.) — A 29-year-old Israeli locksmith has been arrested and charged with throwing the grenade that killed an anti-war activist last year during a demonstration outside the prime minister's office, police announced Friday. The killing of Emil Grenszweig, a 33-year-old graduate student and reserve army officer, ignited bitter recriminations between the right and left wing camps over Israel's entanglement in Lebanon.

INSIDE

- Perez de Cuellar doubtful over Mideast peace conference, page 2
- Senate to meet Sunday. Lower House to hold session Saturday, page 3
- Jordan expecting healthy economy in 1984, page 4
- Huge jets to collect weather data, page 5
- Ahmad, Zaman to clash in Asian squash final, page 6
- Japan plans small budget rise, page 7
- Howe calls for East-West dialogue, page 8

'Threats, intimidations cannot terrify Jordan,' Hassan tells Libya

Egypt awaits details of OIC readmission decision

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt Friday sought details of a decision by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) inviting it back to the Islamic fold from which it was suspended five years ago.

Jordan played a major role in the OIC decision, taken at the fourth Islamic summit which concluded in Casablanca, Morocco, Thursday. The 45-nation OIC decided Wednesday to invite Egypt to resume its place as a founder member of the group — on condition that it endorse all joint Arab positions on the Middle East conflict. The summit approved by consensus a proposal to end the three-year-old suspension of Egypt from the OIC as soon as the Egyptian government explicitly endorsed the decisions taken at an earlier Islamic summit in 1981 and at an Arab summit in 1982.

The decision here implicitly called on Egypt to accept wording that rejects the Camp David accords, though without requiring a formal renunciation of the agreements. The summit took no action on a Syrian and Libyan demand that Egypt renounce its separate peace treaty with Israel before being readmitted to the Islamic group. The last summit meeting of the Islamic nations, held in Taif, Saudi Arabia in 1981, decided to suspend Egypt's membership because the late Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat, had signed the Camp David agreements with Israel.

Hassan supports move

Addressing the conference on Wednesday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan outlined Jordan's stance vis-a-vis ending the suspension of Egypt's membership in the organisation. "Jordan as well as other Arab

countries have taken part in the Baghdad summit and played a prominent role in suspending the membership of Egypt (in the OIC) and boycotting it. Jordan's role in this conference was distinguished and important, because Jordan, as you are aware, was required according to Camp David accords, to take part in the peace negotiations on behalf of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Therefore Jordan's role and its contribution to the conference was an essential one," Prince Hassan said.

"When Jordan stood by the unanimous Arab decision because Jordan believes that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and accordingly the Camp David accords were totally rejected by Jordan," he added. "Nevertheless, we have to admit that Egypt of today is not Egypt of 1979: it is Egypt of the Arabs and Egypt of Mubarak. It is not regional Egypt," Prince Hassan said. "Egypt of today has drawn up for itself this actual image through words, deeds, stands and methods. Egypt of today is Egypt of the Arabs and Muslims. It should not remain away from its people, Egypt's departure is a loss to our effort to correct the situation arising from Camp David accords. The loss of the Egyptian people is a loss to our nations, and if anyone is going to pay for Camp David accords other than the Palestinian and the Lebanese people, then it will be us in Jordan. "Therefore," the Crown Prince said, "and in view of our responsibility in Jordan towards Palestine and towards ourselves, and believing in the national

trend, I announce my country's support for ending the suspension of Egypt's membership in the OIC. "It is clear that the draft resolution submitted to us is reasonable, sound and balanced, and has sufficient guarantee to return Egypt to our fold to take its position side by side of us in our struggle for liberating Palestine and Jerusalem."

Hassan retorts to Libya

"I am not defending (Guinean) President (Ahmad Sekou) Toure's proposal (urging Egypt's return to the OIC), but I am interested in replying the threats and attempts of intimidation against Jordan by the Libyan delegate Tuesday," Prince Hassan said, referring to a speech at the summit by the Libyan second in command, Major Adhul Salam Jaloud.

"I would like to remind that the speech by those whose pockets are full of dollars does not terrify anybody and Jordan does not fear anybody," Prince Hassan said. "Jordan's relations with its people is clear-cut and firm and its stands and sacrifices for Palestine are well-known through its deeds."

Prince Hassan also held a series of talks Wednesday and Thursday with a number of Islamic leaders and reviewed with them subjects on the conference's agenda, in addition to bilateral relations between Jordan and their respective countries.

He met with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, Sudanese President Ja'afar Numeiri, North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, Bahraini Emir Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa and Turkish President Kenan Evren.

Earlier, Prince Hassan held intensive talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is expected to visit Jordan soon to resume talks

with His Majesty King Hussein on joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves in Middle East peace efforts.

Syria and Libya took the lead in opposing Egypt's readmission to the OIC, according to summit sources. They argued that the Camp David agreements were violations of joint Arab and Islamic policy, and that Egypt should not be allowed to return to the Islamic family unless it renounced the agreements.

Moderates, led by Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey and Guinea, said the reasons for Egypt's 1981 suspension were no longer valid because the Arab Nations offered a peace plan of their own at their summit conference in Fez, Morocco in September 1982. They also pointed to the recent reconciliation between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Mr. Arafat.

The sources said Mr. Arafat was present throughout the debate but took no part in it. His foreign policy spokesman, Farouk Kadoumi, announced earlier that Mr. Arafat would neither initiate Egypt's readmission nor oppose it. Informed sources in Cairo said Egyptian leaders were privately elated by an apparent dramatic new step in Egypt's gradual reintegration in the Islamic and Arab mainstream which may also help boost the Middle East peace process.

But official comment was withheld pending details and following a statement by Egypt Thursday that it would not accept an invitation back if conditions were attached. A delegation from the summit, expected to include the Iraqi and Pakistani foreign ministers, is awaited in Cairo.

President Mubarak reiterated this week that Egypt will not scrap the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords.

Egypt's return to OIC seen as moderates' victory, page 2



His Majesty King Hussein talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who returned to Amman Friday after leading the Jordanian delegation to the fourth Islamic summit which concluded in Casablanca, Morocco, Thursday (Petra photo)

Crown Prince returns after Islamic summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned to Amman Friday after heading the Jordanian delegation to the fourth Islamic summit conference which concluded in Casablanca, Morocco, Thursday.

He was received at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein. His Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House of Par-

liament Speaker Akef Al Fayed, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oqas, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Al Qattan and senior government officials.

Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Sulaiman Ara who were members of the delegation to the Islamic summit also returned with Prince Hassan.

Dakhqan appointed president of National Planning Council

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the cabinet's decision to appoint Mr. Omar Abdallah Dakhqan as president of the National Planning Council (NPC).

The position Mr. Dakhqan will occupy as of Saturday became vacant following NPC President Hanna Odeh's appointment as minister of finance in the newly-appointed cabinet headed by Mr. Ahmad Obeidat.

Mr. Dakhqan was a member of the now-dissolved National Consultative Council (NCC) and he also served as director of the Natural Resources Authority prior to his appointment as NPC president.

Omar Abdallah Dakhqan

21 face death penalty in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Twenty-one suspects arrested after a wave of bombings in Kuwait last month, including attacks on the U.S. and French embassies, will be tried within 10 days and face the death penalty, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported Thursday.

The daily Al Qabas quoted sources in the state security prosecution as saying investigations had closed and the prosecution would demand capital punishment for all 21 suspects.

The paper quoted Interior Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber as saying the suspects would be tried by a state security court in a special building for security reasons.

Five people died, including the driver of a suicide truck, in the bomb attacks on Dec. 12 on the two embassies, Kuwait airport and other Kuwaiti installations.

Kuwait officials said last month that the suspects included Iraqi and Lebanese members of the Islamic Al Dawa (call) group, believed to be mainly Shi'ite Muslims opposed to the Iraqi government and now based in Iran.

Iraq blamed Iran for being behind the bombings in Kuwait, which supports Iraq in the Gulf war against Iran. Iran denied involvement.

Another 21 Iraqis have been expelled by Kuwait, the latest in a wave of deportations, Tehran Radio reported Thursday.

It said the 21, all residents of Kuwait, were "expelled by the security police of that country" and crossed the Gulf by motorboat to Iran Wednesday.

Hawatmeh assails Arafat's meeting with Mubarak

MOSCOW (R) — A leader of a radical group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accused Yasser Arafat Friday of "betraying" his people's goals by visiting Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), speaking at a press conference in Moscow after talks with the Soviet leadership, said:

"We do not approve of Arafat's meeting with Mubarak because it is a breach of the agreements of the Arab summit."

Mr. Hawatmeh said the Kremlin leadership had consistently tried to foster unity in the PLO.

Mr. Hawatmeh gave no indication the Kremlin had altered its past position of support for Mr. Arafat, who had been regarded by Moscow as one of the few stable factors in Middle East politics.

An oil painting of Mr. Arafat hung on the wall of the PLO permanent representation office in Moscow where the press conference was held.

Mr. Hawatmeh refrained from saying he was opposed to Mr. Arafat's personal leadership of the PLO and criticised only the veteran PLO chief's current policies. "We are confident that we are capable of overcoming our pre-

sent difficulties... but we are again deals with our enemies," he said.

Meanwhile in Kuwait, eleven of the 27 members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) living in Kuwait have denounced Mr. Arafat's visit to Egypt as deepening inter-Palestinian divisions.

The Central Committee and Revolutionary Council of his Fateh commando group said the visit had been intended to thank President Mubarak for the help he had extended to Mr. Arafat and his 4,000 men during the Tripoli fighting.

The 11 members said the statements by the two Fateh bodies failed to recognise the gravity of Mr. Arafat's move.

They described his Cairo visit as a deviation from the decision of the 1979 Baghdad summit conference to expel Egypt from the Arab League because of its separate peace treaty with Israel and from PNC resolutions on Egypt.

"The visit has deepened inter-Palestinian divisions and has helped to consecrate the Camp David accords (between Egypt and Israel)," the statement said.

It has also lifted the siege imposed on the (Egyptian) Camp David regime," the statement added.

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Egypt's return to OIC seen as moderates' victory

CASABLANCA (R) — Muslim moderates have prevailed over Arab radicals by forcing the return of Egypt to the Organisation Islamic Conference (OIC) five years after it was suspended over its peace treaty with Israel.

After four days of often acrimonious debate, the 45-member OIC ended its fourth summit during the night with a surprise announcement to invite Egypt back, apparently without any conditions.

Heads of three radical Arab delegations, Libya, Syria and South Yemen, walked out of the final closed-door session of the meeting in the ornate royal palace in Casablanca in protest at the decision.

The summit proved the radicals were heavily outnumbered by Arab moderates and their allies in Africa and Asia.

Conference sources said Saudi Arabia masterminded the drive to reinstate Egypt, but left other countries, notably Pakistan and Guinea, to do the talking.

The three-man walkout was foreshadowed by the Libyan delegate, Abdul-Salam Jalloud, who said in Damascus before the summit that Libya would boycott it if Egypt was invited to the meeting.

The final communiqué said simply that Egypt had been invited to resume its place in the OIC, from which it was suspended in 1979, and did not mention any conditions, apparently allowing Cairo to return on its own terms.

During the conference, Egypt's supporters repeatedly stressed that its return to the OIC would bolster the Islamic front against

what they described as challenges from their enemies.

They said Egypt, with a population of more than 40 million and the Arab World's largest army, was vital to the struggle with Israel.

The decision to readmit Egypt, seen by the radicals as a traitor to the Arab cause, underlined the radicals' dwindling influence and diminishing numbers.

The old "steadfastness and confrontation front" of Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen and the PLO appeared to be further undermined by the shifts in stance of Algeria and the PLO.

However, diplomats said the Arab moderates were not expected to soften their line on the Palestinian issue and an overall Middle East peace based on the Foz plan which calls for an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The diplomats pointed out that the Islamic Summit had condemned the recent military cooperation accord between the United States and Israel and U.S. air raids on Syrian positions in Lebanon.

For Egypt's supporters, the next battle will be to regain entry to the Arab League, from which it was also suspended in 1979.

Though backing may be growing for Egypt, the radicals are expected to fight a last ditch battle

to keep Cairo out until it renounces the U.S.-sponsored Camp David peace accords of 1978 which led to the treaty with Israel.

The conference has also called for an immediate ceasefire in the 40-month war between Iraq and Iran, conference sources said.

A resolution also appealed to Iran to respond to peace calls to spare the two states, both OIC members, further bloodshed, the sources told Reuters.

Heads of state in the 45-member body expressed appreciation at Iraq's response to efforts to end the war, the sources said.

The conference supported United Nations Security Council resolutions stipulating a need to guarantee freedom of navigation in the Gulf and urged both sides to refrain from striking at civilian and economic targets, the sources said.

Iran has boycotted the summit and an earlier foreign ministers' meeting, saying the OIC was siding with Iraq.

The Islamic heads of state also decided to ask an OIC mission led by Guinean President Ahmad Sekou Toure to resume its efforts to end the conflict, the sources added.

They said the head of the Iraqi delegation reported to the summit on his country's efforts to terminate the war.

"Iraq is ready to respond unconditionally to all peace moves to end the war and restore good neighbourliness based on mutual respect and the non-interference of both countries in each other's internal affairs," the sources quoted the Iraqi chief delegate as having said.



Leaders of Islamic countries in session during the 4th Islamic Conference at the Royal Palace in Casablanca which concluded Thursday (A.P. wirephoto).

Beirut universities close after Kerr's killing

BEIRUT (R) — Schools and Universities in Beirut were closed Thursday as a mark of respect for assassinated American University President Malcolm Kerr who was gunned down near his office Wednesday.

Dr. Kerr, a 52-year-old Arabist, died in the country of his birth after gunmen masquerading as students fired two shots into his head with a silenced pistol, killing him almost instantly.

The shadowy fundamentalist "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) organisation claimed responsibility for Dr. Kerr's killing and vowed to continue its attacks until all French and American nationals left Lebanon.

The American University of Beirut suspended classes for the rest of the week out of respect for Dr. Kerr.

Other universities also closed, while elementary and secondary schools in both the Muslim and Christian sectors of the capital responded to a strike call by factional leaders to protest.

The shooting was the latest in a sudden upsurge of attacks on individual foreigners. Dr. Kerr was the fifth civilian to be shot at or kidnapped this year — most other targets were French.

The French consul's driver, who has been in a coma since he was shot by a gunman more than two weeks ago, died in hospital Thursday.

Raymond Henri Vauthier, 42, was admitted to hospital in critical condition after a lone gunman on a motorcycle shot him in the head with a silenced pistol on Jan. 3.

But Dr. Kerr, who was born in Beirut and had spent many years

in Lebanon, was the first victim of the recent anti-U.S. and anti-French campaign with no official diplomatic or military links to his country.

"Islamic Jihad", which has claimed responsibility for all major attacks against the French and U.S. contingents of the Beirut Multi-national Force, said Wednesday it was also holding Saudi Arabian Consul Hussein Farrah.

An anonymous caller told a foreign news agency that Mr. Farrah, who was abducted three days ago by six gunmen, had been tried in accordance with Islamic Law and his body would soon be disposed of.

Although Lebanese authorities ordered a massive man-hunt to trace the kidnappers, the whereabouts of the Saudi diplomat have remained a mystery.

Salem meets British leaders to discuss MNF

LONDON (R) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem visited London Friday to press for retention of British troops in the Multi-National Force (MNF) in Beirut, diplomatic sources said.

He lunched with Richard Luce, the Foreign Office minister responsible for Middle East affairs, and was seeing Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe later on his return from the European disarmament conference in Stockholm.

Also in London Friday was U.S. Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld, who was calling on Sir Geoffrey and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for an exchange of views

on his way to Washington. The Thatcher government has been resisting domestic pressure for the withdrawal of its 110-man contingent from Beirut, and Lebanese President Amin Gemayel was in London last month to ask for the force to stay.

There was no official word on Mr. Salem's talks with Mr. Luce, but a Foreign Office spokesman said: "All recent government statements have made clear that the Multi-National Force cannot remain in Beirut indefinitely, but at the present time there is a role for it to play."

Mr. Salem, who conferred with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson Thursday, is also scheduled to meet Mr. Rumsfeld in London.

Meanwhile in Stockholm, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti said after talks with his Soviet counterpart Andrei Gromyko Thursday that he thought the Kremlin might agree to widen the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

The U.N. Truce Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is stationed in southern Lebanon, but should its mandate be widened to cover Beirut, this would allow Italy, France, Britain and the United States to scale down their contingents in the Lebanese capital.

Craxi, Rumsfeld discuss Middle East

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi Thursday night discussed the deteriorating situation in Lebanon during a one-hour meeting with President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, Donald Rumsfeld.

Mr. Rumsfeld made no comment after the meeting but Craxi's office said in a statement, "there is need for a new political and diplomatic offensive to ensure that a spirit of genuine collaboration prevails among all

Lebanese elements." Mr. Craxi believed the possibility of greater involvement by the United Nations in concert with the Multinational Force should be pursued, the statement said.

Mr. Craxi and Mr. Rumsfeld noted a disturbing aggravation of tension in Lebanon and said the whole situation had deteriorated, with the added problem of renewed bombing in Beirut.

The envoy briefed Mr. Craxi on his meetings in Damascus, Beirut

and Tel Aviv, in particular on his talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Lebanese President Amin Gemayel.

Mr. Craxi in turn disclosed the contents of a letter he recently sent to Mr. Assad, the communiqué said.

The meeting formed part of a round of consultations between the U.S., France, Britain and Italy which make up the four-nation peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

Denktash rejects Kyprianou's proposals

LONDON (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash has rejected secret proposals by Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou for a settlement in the divided Mediterranean island, an aide said here Friday.

Mr. Denktash has not formally rejected the proposals but has informed U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that they are unacceptable, Mustafa Adiloglu, spokesman of the Turkish Cypriot mission in London, said.

Mr. Denktash is due here Friday night for a stopover on his way from Casablanca to Cyprus, where he has declared an independent Turkish Cypriot state in the Turkish-occupied north.

Informed sources say President Kyprianou has offered key concessions to the Turkish Cypriots, who hold one-third of the island, in confidential plans submitted to Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

He told Reuters Thursday that his proposals went as far as possible to meet Turkish Cypriot aspirations and added: "I cannot think of anything else we can do."

Mr. Adiloglu said the proposals were merely a rehash of ideas that had already been rejected. "There is no question of our reversing our declaration of independence," he said.

"These proposals cannot possibly form the basis for agreement

in any way," Mr. Adiloglu said. They had not yet been formally submitted to Mr. Denktash.

The Turkish Cypriot leader has proposed talks with Mr. Kyprianou to settle the future of Cyprus but with the two meeting as heads of state and without preconditions.

Mr. Kyprianou has ruled out direct talks unless the Turkish Cypriots abandon their declaration of statehood, regarded by the United Nations as invalid.

Informed sources say the key concessions he is offering include a federal system that would leave one quarter of the island in the hands of the 18 per cent Turkish minority.

He was also said to have proposed demilitarisation of Cyprus, where Turkish troops landed in 1974, and the introduction of a U.N. force for defence and internal security. Informed sources said he wants the towns of Famagusta and Morphou to revert to Greek-Cypriot administration.

Mr. Kyprianou put his proposals to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London on Wednesday and was assured that Britain would support Mr. Perez de Cuellar's settlement efforts.

Britain is a party with Greece and Turkey to the treaty that established the former British colony's independence in 1960.

Kohl to play down arms issue during visit to Israel

BOON (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl wants to play down the thorny issue of Bonn's possible arms sales to Saudi Arabia during his visit to Israel next week, government sources said Thursday.

Last year Mr. Kohl told Saudi Arabia he would not allow it to buy West Germany's advanced Leopard-2 battle tank but that he was prepared to consider selling more defensive weapons such as the Gepard anti-aircraft tank.

Israel feels such sales would sour its relations with Bonn.

"The real issue is that West Germany has a special responsibility to Israel because of the (Nazi) holocaust in which six million Jews were killed. Remember

that Saudi Arabia is a country that considers itself in a state of war with Israel," a senior Israeli official said Thursday.

The Israeli ambassador to West Germany, Yitzhak Ben Ari, warned Wednesday against weapons deals with the Saudis and said his country would not be bought off by economic compensation.

Israel has large debts to West Germany and a trade deficit with the Federal Republic of more than \$640 million.

The sources said Mr. Kohl wanted to improve Bonn's good relations with Israel. The chancellor was going to Israel as a friend and expected to be treated as a friend, they said.

Zaire urges Israel to recognise Palestinian rights

KINSHASA (R) — Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko left on a provincial tour with Israel's president Thursday after telling him Israel should recognise the Palestinians' right to their own state.

At a banquet Wednesday night for Mr. Chaim Herzog preceding their departure for mineral-rich Shaba province Mr. Mobutu said that what he called the long-suffering Jews were well-placed to understand the "despair and frustration of the Palestinians".

Mr. Mobutu said that not to recognise the Palestinians was just as unrealistic as thinking of destroying Israel.

He said Zaire's renewal of dip-

lomatic links with Israel in 1982 after a nine-year break had been costly. Credits, presumably from Arab states, were suddenly cancelled he added.

Zaire, along with many other black African countries, broke relations with Israel after the 1973 Middle East war.

The Israeli head of state, on his first African tour, replied by praising Mr. Mobutu as a man of courage and said Zaire and Africa as a whole had a role to play in seeking a solution to the Middle East crisis.

Africa could help Israel and Arab neighbours start a dialogue, he said.

U.N. chief doubtful about Mideast conference

NIAMEY (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Thursday an initiative to organise a Middle East peace conference "has no great chance of succeeding."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar made the statement to reporters before arriving in Niamey, the capital of Niger, from Mali where he began an eight-nation West African tour.

On Tuesday the Secretary-General was quoted by the Mor-

occan News Agency MAP as saying in Casablanca that he had written the chairman of the U.N. Security Council suggesting a Middle East peace conference.

Such a conference would group all 15 council members and all concerned countries and parties in the region, he said.

On Thursday he said that in Casablanca, where he attended the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), there

had been a "misunderstanding" and that he had not himself floated the idea of a peace meeting.

Instead he was merely responding to a mandate voted by the U.N. General Assembly.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar made his remarks at Bamako in Mali. He said that when he returned to New York from his 18-nation tour he would convene a meeting of developed nations to try to accelerate aid efforts for West Africa.

Vetoed bill passed in Evren's absence

ANKARA (R) — A controversial bill on local elections, vetoed last week by Turkey's President and former military ruler Kenan Evren, has been unexpectedly ratified in amended form during Mr. Evren's absence abroad.

Parliamentary Chairman (speaker) Necmettin Karaduman exercised his right as acting president to pass the bill late Wednesday night. Mr. Karaduman is a non-active member of the majority conservative Motherland Party of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Mr. Evren, at present in Casablanca for the Islamic summit, sent the bill back unsigned to par-

liament last week objecting to it on technical grounds.

His action, the first time he had used his constitutional right to veto legislation since the military regime left office last month, was expected to cause a delay in the local elections, set for March 25.

But Mr. Ozal used his majority in the 399-seat assembly to rush the bill through the house for a second time including most, but not all, of the amendments suggested by the president.

He ensured that the date of the polls would not be changed, a move which political observers said would help his party capitalise

on its general election win last November.

Most political observers thought the amended bill would then be presented to Mr. Evren on his return Thursday from Casablanca for ratification.

But Mr. Karaduman chose to ratify it before the president came home and told reporters he had acted with the full knowledge of Mr. Evren.

"The fact that Acting President Karaduman has ratified the bill is likely to cause some unpleasant disputes," columnist Ugur Mumcu wrote in the left-of-centre daily Cumhuriyet Thursday.

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BBC WORLD SERVICE

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06:00 Newsline 06:30 Let There Be Drums 06:45 Financial News 6:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:59 British Press Review 07:15 About Britain 07:30 The World 07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newswatch 08:30 Album Time 09:00 World News 09:09 News about Britain 09:15 From the Weeklies 09:30 A Short to Announce 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Talent Takes 10:30 Jazz Score 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 People and Politics 12:15 What's New 12:30 Just a Minute 13:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 About Britain 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newswatch 14:15 Anything Goes 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00 World News 15:09 Commentary 15:15 News in U.K. 15:30 Blind Spot 16:00 Saturday Special 16:30 Saturday Special 17:00 Radio Newswatch 17:15 Saturday Special 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 News Summary 19:30 Saturday Special 19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newswatch 20:30 Play of the Week: The Philanthropist 21:30 Album Time 22:00 World News 22:09 Commentary 22:15 Good Books 22:30 A Matter for Debate 23:15 What's New in Science and Politics 24:00 World News 00:09 From our own Correspondent 00:30 New Ideas 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Roundup 01:00 World News 01:09 Commentary 01:15 Lenterbox 01:30 Meridian

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260 MHz, 7200 KHz, 11740 11925 and 15210 KHz.

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries and background reports; science and medicine, sports reports; editorial; world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; American viewpoints: features 17:00 News 17:10 This Week 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 American Viewpoints 18:30 Press Conference USA 19:00 News

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITION	"Orientalism" original paintings, at the Alia Art Gallery.
FILM	"Les Enfants Gâtés" at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.
CULTURAL CENTRES	Royal Cultural Centre. Tel. 661026/7 American Centre. 44371 Philadelphia. 41520 British Council. 36147-8 French Cultural Centre. 37009 Goethe Institute. 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre. 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre. 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre. 39777 Haya Arts Centre. 665195 Husseini Youth City. 667181 Y.W.C.A. 41793 J.W.M.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library. 36111 University of Jordan Library. 443555
MUSEUMS	Polio Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Ofa'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mount Zait, Jabal Luwdeh. Opening hours: 10 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. Museum of Military Memorabilia: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Shams City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240. Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.
SERVICE CLUBS	Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel. 1.30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel. 1.30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel. 2.00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.
CHURCHES	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman, tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luwdeh, 37440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Chahat Hussein, 661757. Coptic Orthodox Church (Greek Orthodox): Abadi, 23541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman, 41559. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71531. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, 71751. Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsat, 663249.
PRAYER TIMES	05:14 Fajr 06:30 Sunrise 11:47 Dhuhr 14:30 Asr 16:29 Maghreb 18:22 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
AMMAN AIRPORT	This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53259, 53070, 53062, 53171, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS	07:00 Cairo (EA) 09:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 09:30 Jeddah (RJ) 09:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 09:45 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ) 09:45 Cairo (EA) 10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:15 Beirut (RJ) 10:30 New York (RJ) 14:40 Kuwait (KAC) 15:30 Baghdad (IA) 16:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 16:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ) 17:15 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ) 17:50 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ) 18:10 Paris (AF) 18:30 Cairo (EA) 18:30 Beirut (MEA) 19:00 Tripoli (RJ) 22:05 Cairo (EA) 00:30 Cairo (RJ) 00:45 Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	06:45 Cairo (EA) 06:30 Beirut (RJ) 07:00 Amman (RJ) 08:00 Cairo (EA) 08:30 Athens (Olympic) 09:05 Beirut (MEA) 10:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 11:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 11:45 Paris, London (RJ) 12:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 12:45 Larnaca (RJ) 14:30 Cairo (RJ) 15:30 Vienna, New York (RJ) 15:40 Kuwait (KAC) 16:30 Baghdad (IA) 19:00 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ) 19:40 Jeddah (RJ)
MONEY EXCHANGE	Local sell/buy rates in flls Belgian franc 65.3' 65.7 Dutch guilder 118.5' 119.2 Egyptian guinea 329.3' 333.3 French franc 43.6' 43.9 Iraqi dinar 375' 383.3 Italian lire (for 100) 22' 22.2 Japanese yen (for 100) 161.1' 161.1 Kuwaiti dinar 1273.3' 1280 Lebanese lira 64.5' 66.2 Omani rial 1078.3' 1085 Qatari riyal 102.6' 103.1 Saudi riyal 107' 107.6 Swedish crown 45.8' 46.1 Swiss franc 67.4' 68.4 Syrian lira 55.5' 56.8 U.A.E. dirham 102.1' 102.6 U.K. sterling pound 527.8' 531 U.S. dollar 375' 377 W. German mark 133.3' 134.1
WEATHER	Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be partly cloudy, with scattered showers and light variable winds. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy, with northerly moderate winds and sea calm. Low/high temperature in deg. C: Amman 4/13 Aqaba 9/21 Dessat 2/15 Jordan Valley 10/20 temperatures: D. Humidity re- cent. Aqaba 37

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
EMERGENCIES	Ambulance 193, 75111 Fire, fire, police 199 Blood bank 75121 Civil Defence rescue 66111 Fire headquarters 66100-3 Police rescue 192, 2111, 37777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 56390-1 Electric Power Co. 36381-2 Municipal water service 31125-6 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333
HOSPITALS	Husseini Medical Centre 81381-32 Khaldi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4 Akhil Maternity, J. Amman 42441 Jabal Amman Maternity 42362 Malhas, J. Amman 66411-4 Palestine, Shamsat 66071-4 Shamsat Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227-9 The Islamic, Abadi 665292 Al-Ahli, Abadi 664140 Italian, Al-Muhajjem 664140 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111 Army, Marks 91611
NIGHT DUTY	AMMAN: Dr. Munder Al Qarni 76258
MARKET PRICES	Upper/lower price in flls per kg. Apple (Double Red) 370 / 350 Apple (Golden) 370 / 350 Apple (Starline) 370 / 350 Apple (Smith) 450 / 400 Apple (local) 220 / 180 Banana 270 / 220 Banana (Mukammal) 230 / 200 Cabbage 60 / 40 Carrot 150 / 120 Cauliflower (white) 80 / 50 Cucumber (large) 250 / 200 Cucumber (small) 370 / 300 Eggplant (large) 180 / 150 Eggplant (small) 90 / 60 Fig 400 / 300 Garlic 360 / 300 Grapes (white) 700 / 600 Grapes (black) 700 / 600 Grapesfruit 110 / 80 Guava 400 / 300 Lemon 130 / 100 Marrow (large) 90 / 70 Marrow (small) 140 / 100 Mallow 160 / 140 Olives 350 / 200 Onion (dry) 150 / 120 Okra 150 / 100 Oranges (Abu Surra) 250 / 180 Oranges (Shamsat) 180 / 120 Pears 650 / 550 Pepper (sweet) 280 / 250 Pepper (hot green) 350 / 300 Potatoes 170 / 140

Freij: Assembly's return is wise move

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (J.T.) — Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij has described the resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan as "a necessary and wise step which is to be welcomed by all."

A report in Thursday's edition of Sawt Al Shaab quoted Mr. Freij as expressing delight at the filing of parliament's vacant seats of the West Bank with personalities that represent that territory.

The elected deputies are fully aware of the conditions existing under Israeli rule and the dangers that threaten the Arab territories, Mr. Freij said.

He said the seven newly elected members of the Lower House of Parliament should speak out from



Elias Freij

and should describe in detail the deteriorating conditions in the occupied Arab land.

"I hope that parliament will embark on a new, brave initiative to break the current political deadlock in the Middle East issue, otherwise, we will find ourselves without both land and a country."

"Once the land is lost there will be no Palestinian cause," he said. Mr. Freij said that the West Bankers will cooperate with their representatives in the Jordanian parliament to achieve what is best for the nation.

The mayor appealed to West Bank deputies to "ask the PLO leader Yasser Arafat to adopt a frank and clear policy."

The paper quoted Mr. Freij as saying that he will visit Amman in the near future.

Cabinet exempts firms from tax, duty

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Wednesday decided to exempt three Jordanian enterprises from customs and tax duty and to establish an energy unit at the National Planning Council.

Under the new decision, three projects, which have an overall capital of JD 6 million, will enjoy freedom from tax, customs duty on its products, raw materials and machinery for six years.

These are: A factory in Salt to produce plastic cases for vegetables and fruit; a television and radio production centre to produce programmes and a factory to manufacture cement products and floor tiles in Daba, east of Amman.

The other five industries will

not pay customs fees on imported machinery needed for production work alone.

These firms, which will have a total capital of JD 850,000, will produce food-stuffs, kitchen utensils, children's toys, and children's soap among other things.

The Cabinet, in its Wednesday session presided over by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, also approved an energy programme drawn up by the National Planning Council (NPC) which is designed to expand projects for the electrification of rural regions in Jordan, boost the Natural Resources Authority (NRA)'s power to conduct surveys to find alternative sources of energy and for

oil prospecting.

The NPC is also to establish a special unit for energy to function under the supervision of a committee that will gather information and draw up required studies which, it is hoped, will lead to a national energy policy aimed at rationalising energy consumption.

Also approved by the cabinet was the Jordan Electricity Authority's general budget for 1984, which amounts to JD 88.181 million.

British military team departs

AMMAN (Petra) — Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, chief of staff of the British Armed Forces and the military delegation accompanying him left Aqaba Wednesday after an official visit to Jordan.

During the visit, Sir Edwin met His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, commander-in-chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and senior officials.

Sir Edwin also visited a number of military sites and institutes as well as some historical and archaeological places in Jordan.

He was seen off at Aqaba Airport by the inspector general of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the commander of the southern region of the military and high ranking officials.

Sir Edwin arrived here last Saturday at the head of the delegation on an official visit to Jordan at the invitation of Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid.

Exhibition, conference to promote trade links

LONDON (LPS) — A model of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem was unveiled on Jan. 17 to prepare for the Arab Architectural Exhibition opening at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London on Jan. 24 and lasting until Feb. 17.

The model of the rock, will form the centrepiece of the exhibition. The unveiling also marked the opening of a conference, called by the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, "Arab Architecture: Past and Present."

Sir Richard Beaumont, chairman of the chamber, who presided, said he hoped this exhibition would be the forerunner of many others.

"This occasion will exemplify what the chamber is all about — an Anglo-Arab joint venture which aims at enhancing mutual understanding and goodwill," he said.

Abdul Karim Al Mudaris, secretary-general and chief executive of the chamber, explained that the "Exhibition not only aimed to increase awareness in Britain of the splendour of traditional and modern architecture in Arab countries, but also to promote Arab-British commercial links by displaying recent and current works by Arab and British architects."

Anani opens exhibition of Jordanian industries

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani opened at the Zarqa Professional Association Complex Wednesday an exhibition of Jordanian national industries.

In a speech at the ceremony, Dr. Anani said that his ministry will offer every possible assistance to Jordanian industries which should exercise a leading role in promoting the country's economic growth.

"The exhibition illustrates clearly the great achievements of Jordan's industry and represents the activities and efforts of Jordanian engineers and specialists," the minister said.

Other speakers at the ceremony included the head of the Zarqa Engineers Society, representatives of the owners of industrial factories in Zarqa and Dr. Rawhi Al Sharif, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association.

Dr. Sharif said in his speech that local industries contribute very effectively to increasing national income and developing the country's social and economic progress.

After the opening ceremony, Dr. Anani toured the exhibition which will remain open for three days.

A total of 18 local companies are participating in the exhibition.

Senate to meet Sunday, Lower House on Saturday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmad Al Lawzi will Sunday chair a session of the senate. During the session, the house will discuss the reply to the speech delivered from the throne by His Majesty King Hussein Monday.

A delegation to accompany the speaker, who will submit the reply to His Majesty King Hussein, will also be elected during the session, according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper.

Meanwhile, Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of its Speaker Akef Al Fayezi.

Its agenda will include a discussion of and approval of its reply to the speech from the throne, the forming of a delegation to accompany the house speaker, who will submit the reply to King Hussein.

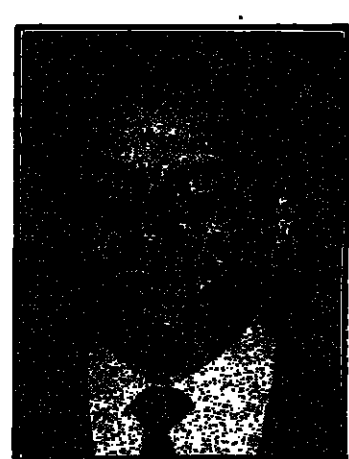
In addition, the newly elected deputies, who represent the con-

stituencies of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jenin, Tulkarem, and Ramallah, will be sworn in as full members after their election Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Mr. Lawzi received a congratulatory cable from the Iraqi National Council President Na'im Haddad on his royal appointment.

Mr. Lawzi received at his office at the parliament Thursday chairman of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Ali Ghandour who extended his congratulations to Mr. Lawzi.

Also Mr. Fayezi received at his office at the parliament Thursday the Iraqi ambassador in Amman



Ahmad Al Lawzi

Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan, a delegation from the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce as well as Mr. Ghandour who extended their congratulations to him on his royal appointment.

King concedes Al Bakhit family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein deputised the deputy chief of Royal Protocol Fawwaz Abu Tayeh to attend the funeral of Bassam Al Bakhit and to convey His Majesty's condolences to Al Bakhit family.

Ajlouni views Zarqa area health provisions

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni discussed with Zarqa District Governor and Chairman of the Zarqa Municipal Committee Saleh Al Quda a number of ideas that are aimed at improving public services provided to the people of the Zarqa district governorate, as well as the possibility of opening new medical and health centres and developing the existing ones.

During his visit to Zarqa Thursday, Dr. Ajlouni also suggested appointing a physician to each of the eight areas scheduled to be set up in Zarqa with the purpose of expanding the health services provided.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ajlouni visited the Zarqa governmental hospital, toured its various sections and inspected the progress of work there.

Dr. Ajlouni later held a meeting with the hospital's director which was attended by sections heads and physicians in the hospital during which they discussed a number of problems and obstacles impeding work and ways of solving them.

They also talked about ways of improving conditions and medical services at the hospital.

The minister promised to execute the requirements needed to support this health utility.

Dutch deputies arrive

AMMAN (J.T.) — A six-member Dutch parliamentary delegation arrived here Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan during which they will meet Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayezi and Minister of Information Layla Sharaf.

The delegation will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on

the Middle East situation and the Palestine issue and they will also visit some Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan.

The delegation arrived here from Kuwait as part of a regional tour.

They were received by Upper House of Parliament Member Dr. Hazem Nuseiba and Lower House of Parliament Member Farah Abu Jabbar.

Farmers urged to plant trees, cereals after rain

AMMAN (J.T.) — The rain which fell in Jordan Tuesday and Wednesday has prompted agricultural specialists to urge farmers urgently to sow seeds and plant fruit trees.

Also the Ministry of Agriculture has made available fruit saplings for distribution to farmers after the rain fall which has revived hopes that, in the wake of the drought, "everything is not lost after all."

According to Lutfi Huwidi, director of the ministry's agricultural production at the ministry, the distribution of saplings was limited to areas irrigated by underground water and springs like Azraq and the Jordan Valley before the recent rains.

But, he said, the saplings will now be distributed to many more parts of the country as many places received 100 millimetres of rain which is sufficient to warrant the distribution and planting of such trees. If more rain falls in other regions they too will be provided with fruit saplings for planting, he said.

Mr. Huwidi advised farmers whose land has not yet received at least 100 millimetres of rain to refrain from planting fruit trees at present, as this can be done between now and the end of March, provided sufficient rain falls.

The Ministry of Agriculture has prepared 850,000 fruit saplings for distribution and this is sufficient for the whole country, Mr. Huwidi said.

Commenting on the situation, Dr. Abdul Majid Al Tal, from the University of Jordan's faculty of agriculture, said that it is not yet

too late to sow cereals like wheat and barley, and farmers can do that up until early February.

Dr. Tal said that it is too early to sow pulses like lentils which should be done in February itself.

As to the northern regions of the country, especially where land was ploughed by tractors at least eight centimetres deep, farmers can still safely sow their cereals in view of the rain which fell recently, Dr. Tal said.

The cereals sown before the rain came will now grow well, he said, and he expressed the hope that more rain will fall in the coming week to ensure a good cereal crop this year.

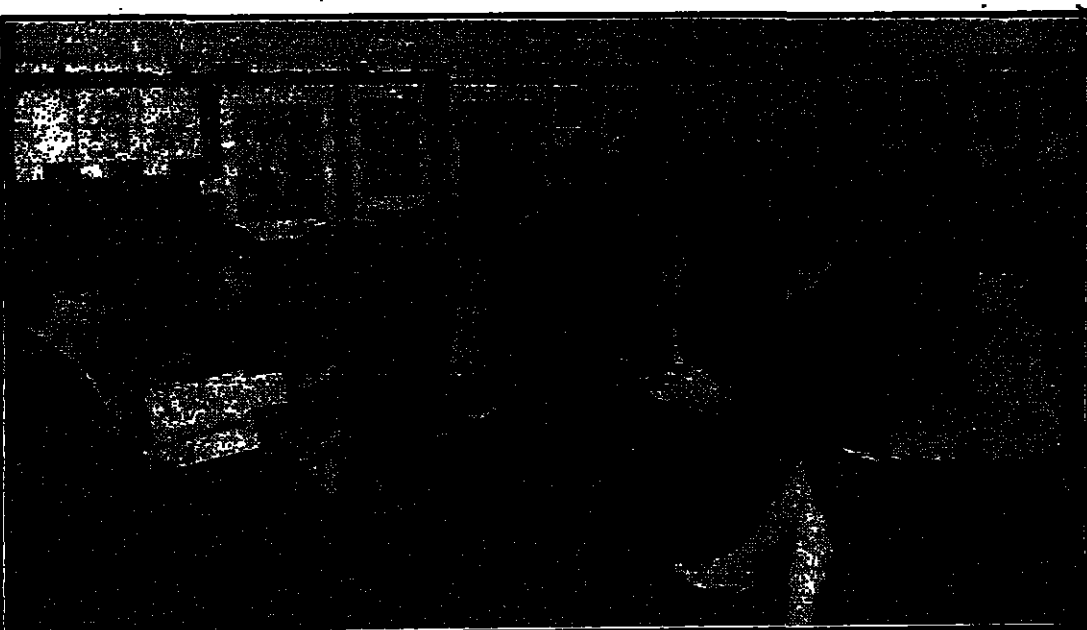
The ministry's range and afforestation department is also optimistic, and announced that it has lifted a ban on the distribution of 3.5 million a forest saplings in view of the recent rains.

The fall of 40 millimetres of rain in high regions and 50 millimetres in pasture lands is enough to plant forest saplings, according to the department's Director Ghaleb Abu Arrabi.

He said that the department has laid plans to plant forest saplings on an area of over 40,000 dunums of land in various regions of which 8,000 dunums of pasture land will be planted with shrubs for animals to graze on.

It is really impossible to contemplate planting these saplings before the rain came, Mr. Arrabi said.

The recent rain is also sufficient for the growing grass in the more traditional pasture lands, Mr. Arrabi said.



PICASSO PAINTINGS: The Spanish cultural attaché Thursday holds a press conference at which he announced that an exhibition of paintings by the Spanish artist Picasso will open at the Royal Cultural Centre Monday (Petra photo).

Visiting U.S. judge: Jordan's strong family ties help keep crime rate low

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "The strong family orientation that exists in Jordan is the main reason for the low crime rate and the absence of many types of anti-social behaviour," this was one of the several impressions of Judge Matthew Fitzgerald, a Town Justice from New York, on his first visit to Jordan where he has been lecturing to trainee police officers at the Mur'ah University in addition to meeting Jordanian judges and lawyers.

Judge Fitzgerald explained that the purpose of the visit was to exchange views on the American and Jordanian systems of justice and to learn more about the separate systems.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Judge Fitzgerald said that, although the legal system in Jordan is based on Islamic Law, the structure of the lower was similar to those in the United States.

Judge Fitzgerald said that he had noticed and was impressed by the courts recognition at all levels of the need for two aggrieved parties to work out the issue and

make peace between them.

Peace-making

He said that it is a requirement that peace is made between the parties before the case can be disposed of and this contrasts with the American system where it does not matter if the parties leave shaking hands "as long as the doctor's bills are paid."

The personal contact between the parties, and the need for attorney as well as compensation was another feature of the courts here that impressed Judge Fitzgerald.

During his two week stay in Jordan, Judge Fitzgerald delivered lectures to officers at the police academy of Mur'ah University, lawyers, the Rotary Club and also visited the central prison, in addition to Irbid and Petra.

He said that the standard of the judges in Jordan was very good and that people here had a clear picture of the American situation regarding law and were knowledgeable on the subject.

Exchanges, cooperation

Judge Fitzgerald said that there

is a strong basis for further programmes and exchanges on a student or official level in order to share more information. He also said that the possibility of presenting lectures for one semester at the University of Jordan is under discussion.

Judge Fitzgerald, a professor of criminal justice and lectures at the Duchess Community College and Marist College in New York.

Although Islamic Law is not taught at either of these colleges, Judge Fitzgerald said that there are some institutions in the United States that offer courses on the subject. However, exposure is given to Islam through courses in religious studies, he added.

Judge Fitzgerald's visit to Jordan was initiated through a student of his, Salem Abbassi, who contacted his uncle, Jalal Abbassi, the secretary of the Jordanian Association of Jurists.

The visit was sponsored by Mur'ah University, the Jordanian Association of Jurists and the Jordanian Bar Association in order to learn more about the different legal systems of the two countries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Residents resist Zionist plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Zionist occupation authorities have started implementing a plan to remove the Palestinian camps in the Occupied Arab Territories and sending their residents to various areas. The occupation authorities have taken some of Jabalia camp residents to the military court for rejecting the decision to evacuate their houses after having delivered them a demolition order. Arab citizens in Jabalia camp says this is the first time a military court has considered a case pertaining to demolishing houses on the pretext that they are constructed on state-owned land.

Hourani meets Canadian officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Industry and Trade and Tourism Under-Secretary Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani received at his office Thursday Director of Middle East Relations Division of the Canadian Department of External Affairs, Michael Bell and the commercial attaché at the Canadian embassy in Amman, Gren Wood. During the meeting, the two sides discussed commercial and economic issues of interest to the two countries and the possibility of signing a commercial and economic agreement as well as technical co-operation between Jordan and Canada. Mr. Bell who arrived here last Monday, left Amman Friday morning after he met other Jordanian officials and visited the Jordan valley Authority.

Vegetable consignment sent to Europe

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Jordanian Corporation for marketing agricultural products Mazen Abdul Qader said the corporation Thursday despatched the first trial consignment of agricultural products to the United Kingdom. The consignment includes parrika, egg plant, cucumber, marrow, lettuce and tomatoes. Another batch will be sent Sunday to the Netherlands, Mr. Abdul Qader added. Jordan stopped sending vegetables to Europe in 1978.

Nijm calls for intensive efforts in public works

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijm has stressed the need to follow a scientific course in treating problems facing his ministry. Since the Ministry of Public Works is a technical ministry, planning and scientific method must be the means through which to tackle the ministry's programmes in the future, Mr. Nijm said during a meeting he chaired Thursday at the ministry.

The minister reviewed existing work methods especially in the fields of organisation, development and technical training to ensure that the back up exists from which to attain the ministry's goals and objectives.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Nijm called for the intensification of efforts concentrating on the quality of work, especially in relation to the efficiency of the employee and ways of motivating him.

The minister also stressed the importance of personal follow-up in attaining these achievements.

Meanwhile, Mr. Nijm will hold a press conference Saturday at the ministry.

He is expected to outline to newsmen his ministry's programmes and plans for the current year and will review the achievements of the past year, according to Al Dustour daily Arabic newspaper.

Former Minister of Social Development In'am Al Mufti is Thursday welcomed by members of the ministry's staff at a party given in her honour (Petra photo)

Kan'an chairs social development talks, Amra party says farewell to Mrs. Mufti

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Salam Kan'an Thursday morning presided over a meeting of Social Development Department directors in Jordan.

During the meeting, department directors briefed the minister on their duties, activities and the accomplishments of their departments, and reviewed the ob-

stacles and difficulties facing them.

They stressed the importance of holding regular training courses for the ministry's staff, especially those working in the field and with project implementation.

Attending the meeting were the ministry under-secretary and his assistants.

Meanwhile, ministry staff Thu-

rsday held a party at the Amra Hotel in honour of Former Minister of Social Development In'am Al Mufti.

Attending the party were the Minister of Youth and Culture and Antiquities Abdullah 'Oweidat, in addition to the minister of social development and ministry's under-secretary.

Jordan Times

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

For Friday

Al Ra'i: A positive return

BY A vote of 32, the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference has decided to return membership of Egypt to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). This important decision means that the threat and intimidation which has been practised by one or two members no longer has the power to veto the majority decision. Thus, the OIC was able to overcome a chronic crisis.

It is time for the Arab majority to restore its effectiveness in the Arab League and the Arab summit conferences, emanating therefrom, just as it did in the OIC meetings. It is no longer acceptable to have the minority decision prevailing. It is essential to amend the Arab League Charter to liberate the Arab decision from this millstone of unanimity, which has given the minority the opportunity to obstruct the majority's will. This obstacle has subjected the Arab decision to conciliatory considerations, with a view to gaining the required consensus, thus it led to lack of interpreting Arab work into actual actions.

The call to restore the Arab majority's role in making policy does not mean that minority will be deprived of giving its point of view and defending it. Since balanced dialogue, which gives an opportunity to all, should be the only basis for future conferences. The decision to return Egypt to the OIC is a positive one which should be completed by another Arab decision returning Egypt to its Arab environment.

Sawt Al Shaab: An important summit

UPON THE conclusion of the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference, questions about this summit's achievements and decisions are growing bigger. These questions touch upon the core of the Islamic World's problems, issues and sufferings. Has the period falling between the third and the fourth Islamic summit given the Muslim leaders the ability to move from the stands to conforming with them? The real value lies in abiding by and implementing decisions and in having such stands taken by the majority, disregarding the extremist individual stands, which practise intellectual terrorism on all.

The Casablanca summit had the same agenda as that of the Mecca conference despite the difference in time. It included the Muslim's most pressing issues, that is Jerusalem, Palestine, the Iraq-Iran War, Egypt, Lebanon, Afghanistan, in addition to economic affairs. These issues remained unsolved up to the Casablanca conference because its decisions were not binding on members states. Active Islamic work as such issues should not remain subject to imported currents, individual moods or hardline stands. The Islamic summit is therefore required to take binding decisions capable of facing the challenges of the day.

For Thursday

Al Ra'i: Hassan's winning formula

IN A speech to the Islamic conference in Casablanca, Crown Prince Hassan openly and candidly defined the elements of weakness that has characterised the Islamic World and also submitted a formula that can remedy the situation. Prince Hassan said that the Arab and Islamic nations' political weakness and the continual divisions among the Arabs have greatly contributed to the present weakness. This weakness, he said, made the Arabs and Muslims vulnerable to attack and to the ambition of their enemies.

To remedy the situation Prince Hassan suggested that Muslims rise above the level of despair and throw off every feeling of weakness, conduct self criticism in a true and frank manner, and try to achieve reconciliation with other brotherly states. In this way, he said, all Arab and Muslim nations will be able to help the PLO and Jordan in their joint struggle to liberate Palestine, to prevent Israel from exploiting the time factor and to build more settlements and maintain the Palestine problem alive and on the international level. Also, he said, this can abort Zionist attempts to keep Egypt completely isolated from the Islamic World. Thus Prince Hassan said the Islamic World can achieve substance in its meeting in Casablanca and help fulfil the aspirations of the Islamic World.

Al Dustour: A democratic election

THE LOWER House of Parliament Wednesday witnessed democratic competition among its deputies in the struggle to win the vacant seats of the Occupied West Bank. The election in parliament of seven members to fill the vacant seats represent, another manifestation of freedom, democracy, unity and cohesion among the members of the united parliament that groups representatives of the West and East Banks of Jordan. Of course, the intra-parliamentary election would not have been the right procedure had there been no occupation of Arab territory which prevented free elections. Nonetheless, each citizen in the country takes pride in the democratic way the election was conducted and wishes the new deputies every success.

Now that the vacant West Bank seats have been filled people are looking forward to further cohesion between Palestinians and Jordanians, and further cooperation and joint action to bring about liberation of Arab lands. We hope the representatives of people on both banks can find the means and the formula for future joint action between the PLO and the government to achieve national aspirations and goals.

Sawt Al Shaab: Future still in balance

THE NEW cycle of violence that is sweeping Lebanon at present can only serve the enemy and means that the enemies of the Lebanese people are determined to liquidate and partition the country. The past two days witnessed the abduction of the Saudi consul in Beirut and the assassination of the president of the American University of Beirut. These two events indicate clearly the weakness of the central government and its inability to control the affairs of a city over which it exercises full sovereignty and where it has deployed its armed forces to maintain stability and peace.

The new cycle of violence in Lebanon is also an indicator that the country is on the threshold of a new round of internal conflict that will further aggravate the political situation and make the factional leaders unable to achieve any reconciliation. Lebanon's future will remain in the balance if the Lebanese people do not take speedy action to bring back to life the efforts designed to achieve national reconciliation and peace.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

U.S. media brainwash-game goes on

SAN FRANCISCO — The American media puzzle people in other countries. The U.S. is the most powerful and rich country in the world. Its universities are sought out by students from all over the world. American technology remains extraordinary even when taken over by so gifted a people as the Japanese. So one would think that our newspapers and television would reflect that brilliance. No so. To foreigners, the newspapers seem narrow-minded, prejudiced, and often outright boring. And foreigners find it impossible to understand how quaint little commercials advertising some new toothpaste can immediately follow a lead item on a news programme.

Our media, with the exception of a New York Times, are just the opposition of what the London BBC is, for example. There is a calmness

about the BBC that never wavers, even when the most horrendous news is reported. In the American media, however, excitement periodically bubbles up like foam on ocean waves. And when one wave creates foam, others will follow. In media terms, this means that "an issue has been discovered."

The latest issue to be discovered by the U.S. media is the "Shiite revolution." More and more newspapers are printing news of Shiite militancy in southern Lebanon. The phrase of one Shiite leader on the bus bombing in Jerusalem that "really I was glad" was reprinted again and again. President Reagan's comments about one thousand Shiite kamikaze was also reprinted again and again (older Americans remember the Japanese kamikaze pilots of World War

II who crashed their planes into U.S. warships — kamikaze means in Japanese, the wind of the gods). Naturally, the car bombing which cost the lives of more than 200 Marines in Beirut in October was the beginning of this new discovery.

What difference does it make that the U.S. media have "discovered" Shiism or the Shiite revolution as some call it? It makes a difference for Americans, in any case. Once again the media are playing a key role in "picking an enemy." And once the enemy has been identified, his image is pounded in again and again into the minds not just of ordinary Americans but those in political office.

Shiites are now joining the list of enemies of America as seen in the media.

That list changes over time and at no time is very big. Since

the end of World War II, it has contained the name of the Soviets. They are an old enemy, but feelings against the Soviet enemy have risen since the Soviets shot down Korean Airlines Flight 007. "Red China" used to be an enemy but now, remarkably, has turned into a popular country and, in some people's eyes, even a mild friend and growing ally. Ronald Reagan would like it that Americans again see Cuba as an enemy, but the media never followed him on that. Except for Cuban exiles and right-wingers, there is little hatred of Cuba in the U.S.

In the Middle East, Palestinians earlier qualified as enemies. Feelings against Palestinians were negative but not all that deep. They intensified after 1970 and especially after the killings of the Israeli athletes in Munich in 1973. But,

last year, a change took place. U.S. media covered the siege of Beirut in a way quite sympathetic to the Palestinians. Now its stance vis-a-vis the Palestinians has that same lack of passion that is shown by the U.S. media to most foreigners in the world.

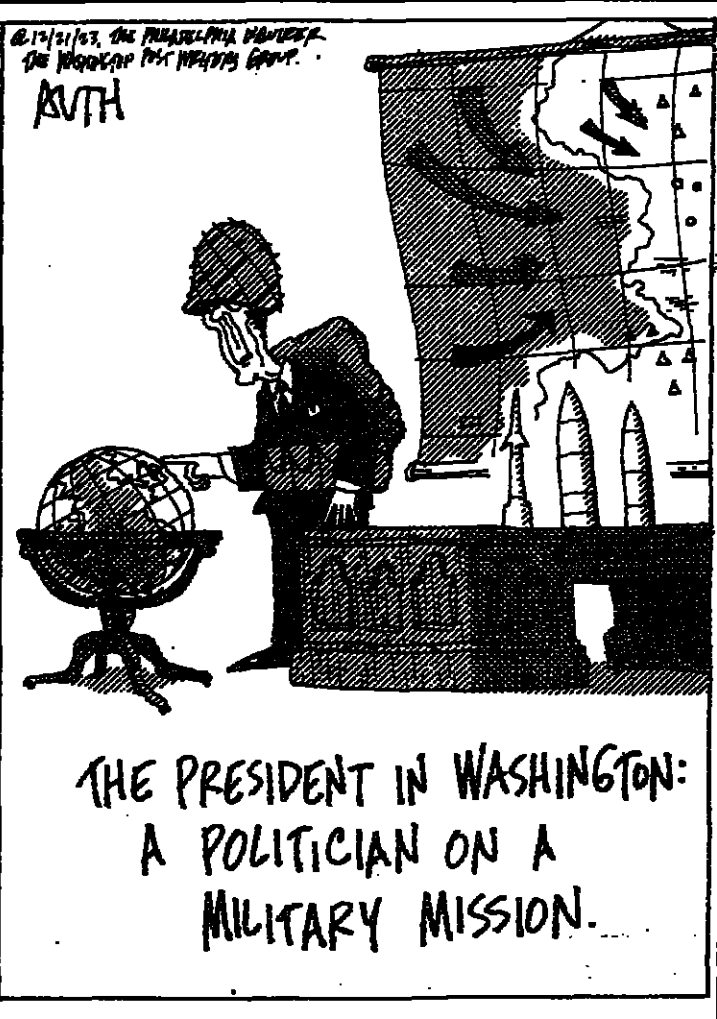
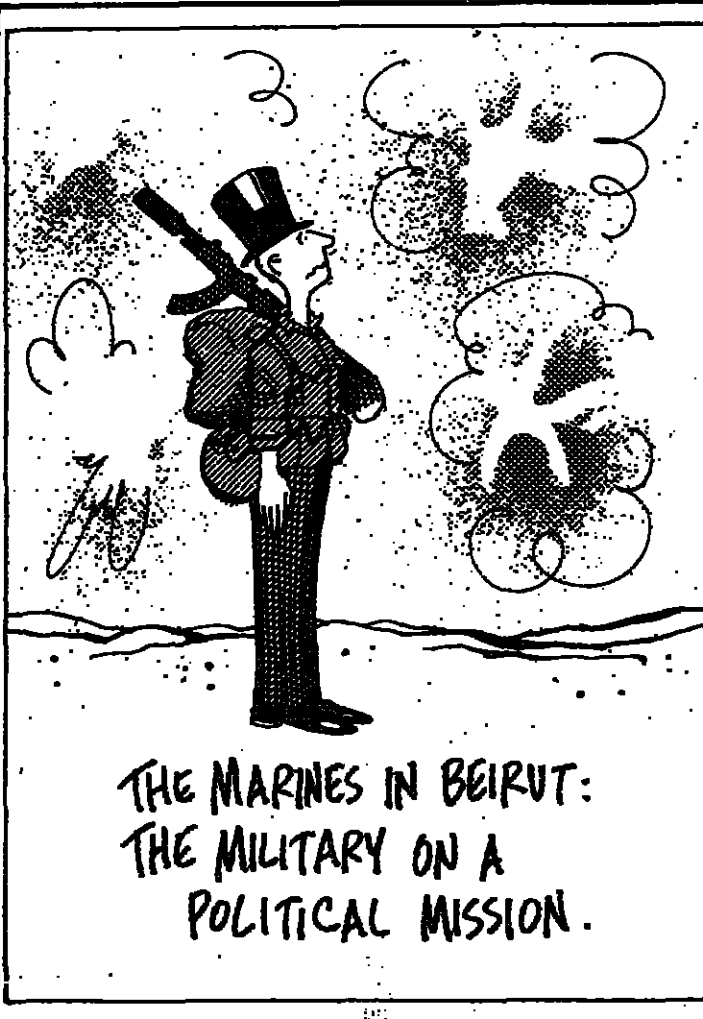
But with Shiites it is different. First came the bitterly hostile publicity over Khomeini and the Iranian revolution. The attitude was not really anti-Iranian but rather than an evil and crazy old man had acquired some "brainwashing" hold on the Iranian people. How else explain that so many young boys have gone to their deaths in battle by running over minefields? The world Shiism hardly appeared in newspapers, and it was rare even in the New York Times.

Now Shiism is becoming a common word (Sunniism, by

the way, is never mentioned). As the media see it, it is a kind of religion that encourages martyrdom and military suicide. Thirty years ago, it was supposed Chinese brainwashing that fascinated American minds. Now it is becoming Shiism.

Middle Easterners may laugh at this simple-mindedness, but it would be a mistake to underestimate its political force. The "discovery" of this new Shiism is preparing the public for another version of that "good guys/bad guys" categorisation so typical of American media history. This time it is "good Muslims and bad Muslims."

What does this mean for other people, especially in the Middle East? It means, as in the past, that U.S. involvement in the region, far from decreasing, will intensify.



Zhao pragmatically shelved Taiwan

By Arthur Spiegelman
 Reuter

NEW YORK — He was stepped on by a robot at the University of California at Berkeley, demonstrated against by 800 people in Washington, and New Yorkers were irritated at him for causing traffic jams wherever he went.

But these were only minor problems for Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang who can claim that his nine-day U.S. visit which ended Monday was a success that laid the foundation for better Sino-American relations despite differences over Taiwan.

Mr. Zhao left, saying, "I am full of confidence for a steady and sustained development of Sino-U.S. relations."

He will take back to Peking a new Sino-American resolve not to let Taiwan stand in the way of building economic ties.

In his last public appearance in the U.S., Mr. Zhao made a tantalising reference to another form of possible cooperation between the two countries.

He said, "China and the United States share the same position with respect to Afghanistan and Kampuchea (Cambodia) and I hope our two sides can coordinate in this respect so as to contain Soviet expansion in the region."

He did not expand on that remark,

but it was closer to suggesting strategic cooperation between Washington and Peking than anything he or the Reagan administration had said previously during his visit.

Mr. Zhao's U.S. trip ended on the same day that President Reagan chose to call on the Soviet Union to return to suspended arms control talks and to join the United States in "constructive cooperation" for world peace and stability.

Mr. Zhao told reporters he knew in advance that the president would make such a speech, but declined to comment on it.

Sino-American relations turned frosty when Mr. Reagan became president, because of his long-standing support for Taiwan.

A 1982 joint communiqué in which the United States promised to gradually reduce U.S. arm sales to Taiwan failed to smooth relations.

But last year a series of high-level American visits to Peking broke the ice and Mr. Reagan is now set to visit Peking in April.

The talks last year led to a U.S. pledge to ease restrictions on technology sales to China, and Mr. Zhao took home an agreement on this.

Mr. Zhao went to great lengths in public comments to reassure Americans that China wanted a

peaceful reunification with Taiwan, in which, he said at one point, "neither party will swallow up the other."

He said that all he asked of the United States was that it not hinder the reunification process.

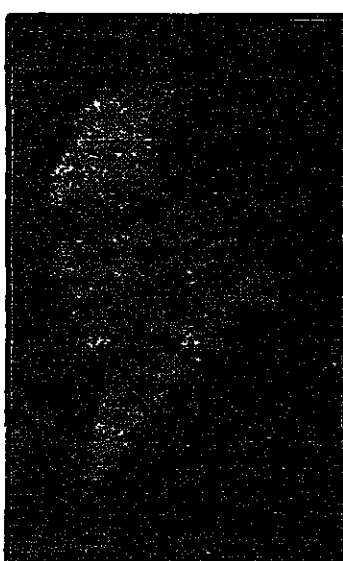
But in a speech to the foreign policy association here, he also said, "we cannot make a commitment to any foreign country that only peaceful means will be used in solving the Taiwan issue, because this is China's internal affair and within China's sovereign rights."

Former President Richard Nixon, who visited Mr. Zhao for an hour, said he felt that China's position on Taiwan was "one on which we can build." He added, "I see no military threat to Taiwan."

Mr. Nixon was responsible for restoring relations with China. He and his former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger saw Mr. Zhao's visit as setting the seal on improved relations.

Mr. Zhao, too, saw a better era ahead for Sino-American relations.

"Facts prove that countries with different social systems can very well live together in harmony, friendship and cooperation while countries with the same social system may come into confrontation or even conflict," he said in his New York speech.



Premier Zhao

"As things stand, neither of our two countries poses a direct threat to the other. On the contrary, we have common interests on larger issues affecting international peace and security," he added.

While the premier was happy with his U.S. visit, he was also happy to leave the U.S. press. He told Mr. Nixon: "We Chinese who engage in politics don't know how to handle the (U.S.) press. It is easier to handle the Chinese press — they won't raise difficult questions."

Poor prospects for N.-S. Korean dialogue

By Oh Ilson
 Reuter

SEOUL — The chances of a dialogue between North and South Korea on reunification appear as slim as ever despite the North's proposal for three-way peace talks with the South and the United States.

Pyeongyang's proposal, announced by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Jan. 11, was the first time it had said the South should participate in negotiating a treaty to replace the 1953 Armistice Agreement that ended the three-year Korean war.

The North said the discussions would also take in the possible withdrawal of 40,000 U.S. troops in the South, which did not sign the armistice because it objected to a truce without full unification. Seoul did not specifically reject

the offer because, analysts here said, it did not want to sound too blunt.

But it called the northern proposal a "deceptive peace offensive" that Pyongyang used whenever it was driven into a corner on the Korean question.

Foreign ministry officials said North Korea's bid was aimed at "recovering their diplomatic face which suffered a great blow over the Raengoon bombing." Two North Korean military commanders were sentenced to death in Burma for the Oct. 9 blast in which four South Korean cabinet ministers were killed.

Responding to the proposal, National Unification Minister Son Jae-shik said Seoul preferred that the leaders of the two Koreas first hold talks on reducing tension on the peninsula and ultimate unification.

He agreed with President Reagan's proposal, made during the visit to Washington of Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang, that the peace talks include China, a participant in the war and signatory to the armistice.

Mr. Son made it clear that South Korea would also welcome expanded conferences between parties directly or indirectly concerned with Korea. The indirect reference was to the Soviet Union and Japan.

Some government officials here believe that China's inclusion in any talks on Korea now would put both Pyongyang and Peking in an awkward position in view of Sino-Soviet rivalry.

Moscow, also a strongly ally of the North, could be offended if left out of any discussions, they added. "By the same token, including both Moscow and Peking at such

talks would be an embarrassment to both," a South Korean expert on the North said.

Ever since 1953, the two Koreas have accused each other of preparing a new conflict in the peninsula and Mr. Son said such a war would not be limited to fighting between North and South.

Although Seoul has no diplomatic relations with Communist states and Peking is still technically called an enemy here because of the Korean war, the hijacking of a Chinese airliner to South Korea last May led to the first official contacts between the Chinese and South Koreans.

After amicable talks between the officials of the two countries, all 96 Chinese crew and passengers were returned home and the officials promised to exercise a similar cooperative spirit in dealing with any future problems.

After a slow 1983, Jordan expecting healthy economic growth in 1984

By Riad Khouri

BEIRUT — Like Lebanon, Jordan is a small country relying heavily on the Arab oil states for its markets and livelihood. Unlike Lebanon, however, Jordan has enjoyed a high degree of stability over the past decade, allowing it to take maximum advantage of the rise in oil revenues of the mid-1970s and the consequent regional boom.

Aid flowed in at an increasing rate, the economic and social infrastructures were strengthened, and industry and services expanded in an economy that, by now, can no longer be classified as underdeveloped without qualification.

More than 300,000 Jordanian expatriates — largely in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia — provided badly needed skills to other parts of the Middle East and sent home millions of dollars to further enrich the country.

From a cozy place, Amman emerged as a centre of regional business and communication and the city looked set to take its place as an important third world capital at the centre of a small but dynamic and flourishing economy.

But 1982 put an end, at least temporarily, to this trend. The Iraqi market virtually collapsed, as far as Jordanian exporters were concerned, because of the effect of the Iraq-Iran war, and the slow-down in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf reduced public and private flows of funds to Jordan.

Amman's previously booming stock exchange began a steep decline and property prices fell likewise. The 1983 economic situation, exacerbated by the regional political malaise in general, and the Lebanese crisis in particular, showed all the characteristics of a slump. But it was a "slump" relative only to the sharp growth of the earlier years, and it is in this context that we should look at the Jordanian economy and its prospects.

For Jordan, the winter of 1983-84 has been one of discontent. Mild weather and scant rainfall have only worsened an already sluggish economic and financial performance. Despite the sharp drop in aid and the effects of the regional and international economic recessions, however, the economy should grow by four to five per cent in real terms this year. The Arab oil-producing states that pledged to provide Jordan with \$1.25 billion annually at the 1978 Baghdad summit conference have been unable to come up with the full amount. In fact, during the past two years budget-support grants to Jordan have totalled a full billion dollars less than anticipated.

This has combined with the recession in the oil-producing countries and throughout the industrialised world to dampen Jordan's economic growth during the past year, but anticipated growth for 1984 should compare well, not only with the Middle Eastern states, but with most others countries.

Exports are expected to drop this year, though total foreign exchange receipts should leave Jordan with only a small deficit, or perhaps in a rough equilibrium, in the balance of payments. The country's reserves remain high (at over \$1.1 billion) but the official debt increased by 20 per cent last year and has to be monitored carefully in 1984. Nevertheless, Jordan's foreign debt ratio remains healthy, if compared to most other

developing countries, with outstanding obligations in late 1983 at around \$1.3 billion.

The 1984 government budget represents a small drop from 1983 in real, inflation-adjusted terms. The price level is expected to rise by six per cent this year, representing a return to "normal" levels that correspond to a growing economy. The 14 per cent increase in commercial bank deposits in 1983 was also a return to a more normal rate of growth, after such heavy annual increases as 25-30 per cent during the past eight years. The situation regarding the money supply is similar: after nearly a decade of feverishly high growth that reached 30 per cent in some years, next year's increase is not expected to be more than 12 per cent.

Thus, as these and other indicators show, 1984 will see further cooling off of the Jordanian economy. Rajai Muasher, a businessman and former minister of the economy, put it succinctly when he predicted that 1984 "is going to be more of 1983."

"The agricultural season is now showing great promise, the prospects for industry are not bright because of unsteady export markets, and expatriates' remittances will continue to be low," he adds.

Many share his views. Planners and economists might see this as necessary, allowing the country to adjust to a new phase of development. From this point of view, the current period is one of consolidation, and the slowdown, though businessmen would never agree, is not unwelcome. An obvious benefit is the lowering of the rate of inflation. Another could be the easing of pressure on the labour market, and the consequent reduction in the inflow of unskilled foreign workers, which had its own problems.

But this is no source of cheer for the country's powerful entrepreneurs, a group which everybody, especially the government, admits is at the heart of the economy. More to their liking was the recent announcement that oil had been discovered northeast of Amman.

As front-page news the oil strike was a welcome change from the gloomy forecasts for 1984. But as hard fact, the news is less than spectacular. To begin with, we are talking about one well, and even that is not yet in production. In addition, although the quality of its oil is good — light crude with a low sulphur content — the quantity involved is tiny: 400 barrels a day. Measured against the country's imports of 50,000 to 60,000 barrels a day, the well is not going to make very much difference. Still it marks a beginning. What now is a gleam in the eyes of Jordanian geologists and petroleum engineers may yet prove to be an Eldorado.

And if that doesn't materialise, that other vital liquid, water, is being discovered near the oil. It is no exaggeration to say that water supplies are the single greatest constraint on Jordan's development, whether these supplies are for human, agricultural or industrial use. And if water and oil are gushing out of the desert under the winter sun, can spring be far behind?

Riad Khouri is a business and economic consultant in Beirut who frequently travels to Jordan. He wrote this article for Lebanon's Daily Star newspaper.

Huge jets to collect weather data

By Elaine Williams

LONDON — Before the end of the decade many of the world's wide bodied jets may carry computers which gather weather data. The World Meteorological Organisation in Geneva signed a contract with a British company to turn prototype equipment into commercial product.

Eight countries are participating in the project which, it is hoped, will improve weather forecasts around the world and save airlines' fuel by planning routes to avoid the full effects of bad weather.

GEC McMichael, part of the GEC group, won the contract, worth about \$500,000, against competition from three U.S. companies, including Bendix Corporation and Teledyne.

The Aircraft to Satellite Data Relay (ASDAR) project will automatically collect data on weather conditions in the upper atmosphere and transmit information to the meteorological satellites circling the earth. Plans are to use the system on Boeing 747 and DC10s initially.

Relaying information

In essence, the ASDAR system consists of a small on-board computer which takes information from the aircraft's own inertial navigation guidance system. This has data on wind speed in the

upper atmosphere, temperature, altitude and the location of the aeroplane and the weather observations are made.

This information is relayed automatically at hourly intervals to the weather stations via one of four satellites. Two are launched by the U.S., one is Japanese and the other is European. The ASDAR processor collects information every seven and a half minutes and transmits the information in batches. Happily, it is possible to transmit messages to all satellites using the same frequency.

About \$1.1 million has been raised from the eight countries participating in the ASDAR project. The U.K., the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are the main contributors to the project. Other funding has come from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands and West Germany.

Airlines to participate

Within two years the ASDAR system will be turned into a commercial system and by 1986 about 50 units should be operating on airlines' jets. Mr. Jim Girayts at the World Meteorological Organisation in Geneva commented that the aim would be to have more than 200 widebodied jets linked into the system. British Airways carried one of the experimental systems and British Caledonian, TWA and United

Airlines are all willing to participate in the next phase.

The ASDAR project started officially in 1981 after initial work which started more than a decade ago. The World Meteorological Office used NASA technology for the prototype system and 18 units were built to prove the techniques. Mr. Girayts said that at one point eight international airlines had trial systems on board their aircraft.

The benefits of the ASDAR system, said Mr. Girayts, was the ability to receive automatic information about weather conditions in the upper atmosphere. Neither the pilot nor his crew need do anything during the flight.

Such information would give more reliable and more frequent data on upper atmosphere conditions. Today it is usually gathered by sending up balloons equipped with expensive radio sondes. At most two such observations can be made during the day, and none at all are used over large areas of oceans — where aircraft tend to have their routes.

Mr. Girayts said that there were also benefits for airlines in that the system could be used for take-off and landing, and for plotting optimum long distance routes to reduce aircraft fuel consumption.

Another possible use of the system could be for emergencies to help locate off-course or missing planes, as in the recent Korean Air Lines disaster. Because the

ASDAR system automatically transmits every hour it would be possible to give a more accurate idea of the plane's position before disappearance.

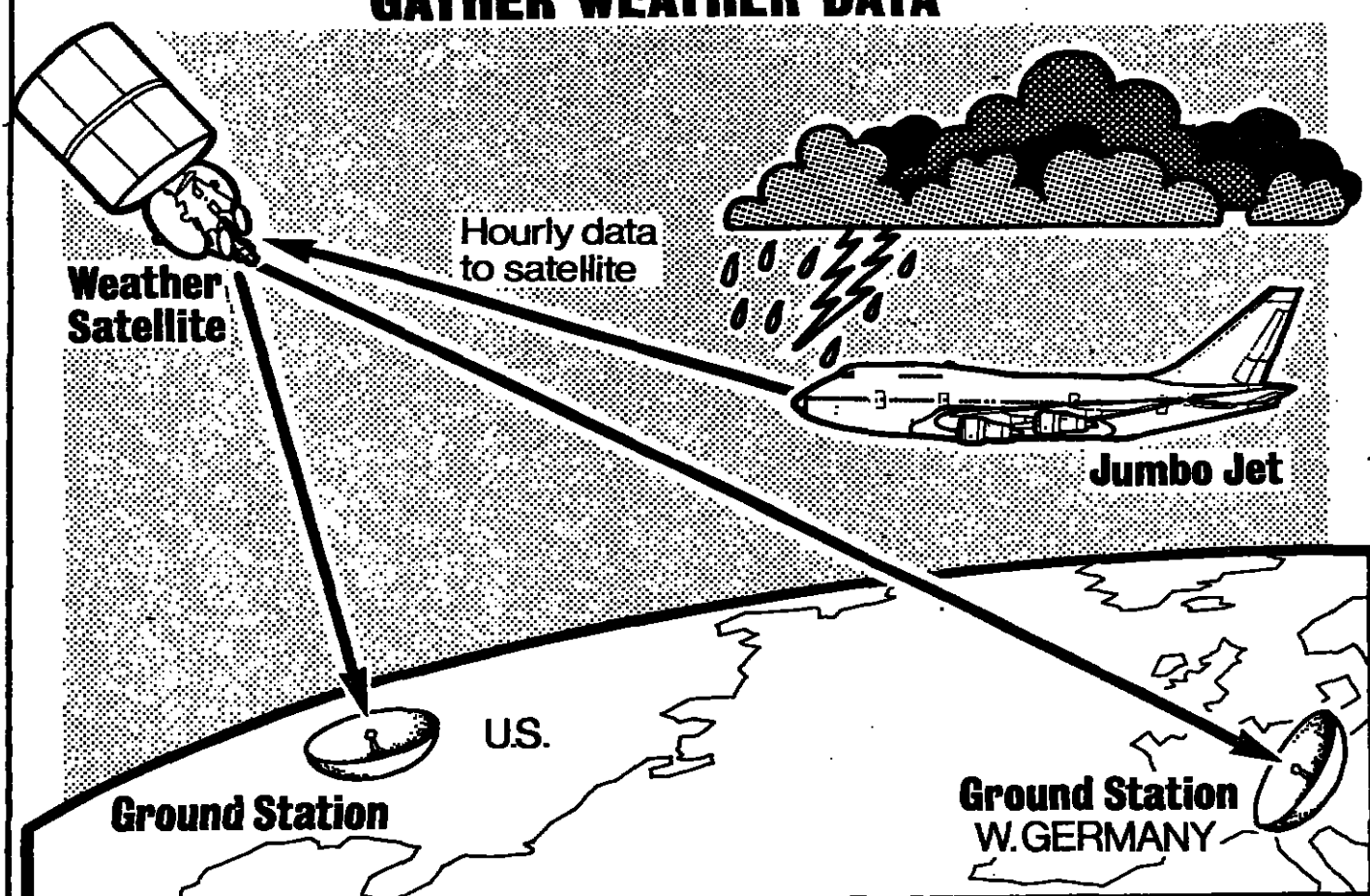
Barriers

Mr. Girayts, however, said that there were certain barriers to the system's use in distress. There is no infrastructure to alert authorities about possible disasters and weather satellite ground station operators are reluctant to take on such responsibilities without a suitable reporting network. Though this application has been discussed for three or four years, and despite the U.S. Air Force's enthusiasm, no progress has been made and shows no signs of doing so.

The main aim, though, is to improve weather reporting. Pilots already give verbal reports and are an important input to the world meteorological data base. However, such reports are only available at the standard longitudes and are subject to long delay — up to 12 hours — because of manual processing.

When operational the new system takes information in two ways: Every seven and a half minutes during high altitude cruising but at a much smaller interval during take-off and landing, when an aircraft can experience considerable atmosphere changes. — Financial Times news feature

HOW COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT WILL BE USED TO GATHER WEATHER DATA



Weather conditions in remote ocean areas can be detected using jets' existing sensors and inertial navigation system.

S.Europeans to modernise air-safety facilities

BRUSSELS (R) — Air safety over the Mediterranean, the holiday destination of millions of people each year, continues to lag far behind northern Europe, according to aviation experts.

They acknowledge that Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece, which have been criticised in the past for inadequate standards, are upgrading their facilities.

However, European Parliamentarian Carlo Ripa di Meana says last month's runway crash between two planes at Madrid Airport would almost certainly have been prevented if the Spanish had installed ground radar. Ninety-three people were killed.

Mr. Ripa di Meana, an Italian Socialist and spokesman for the European Parliament's Transport Committee, called attention to deficiencies in aircraft radar coverage, navigational aids and automated traffic control throughout the Iberian Peninsula.

In a new report he says there are still potentially dangerous gaps in radar coverage over parts of the Mediterranean and calls for stricter, Community-wide safety standards to cut the number of collisions and near misses between planes.

His report is backed up by an official of the International Federation of Airline Pilots Association, Max Venet, who says radar coverage over the Mediterranean is insufficient.

Mr. Venet, who is the association's southern European vice-president, said northern Europe and North America were the best equipped air safety zones in the world. But comfortable radar coverage is available only north of line drawn from Madrid through Rome to Athens.

In the past, the association has awarded black stars to airports or air corridors it is unhappy about, but Mr. Venet says it now tries to seek reforms without publicity.

European Community airports that have drawn black stars in previous years include Rhodes, Corfu and Athens in Greece, Bordeaux, Lille and Nantes in France and Rimini and Palermo in Italy.

But Mr. Venet would name only one area causing concern at the moment — the airspace north and

east of Cyprus, which is on the main air route between Europe and Asia.

He said conflicting instructions can be issued to pilots from rival control units of the Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot authorities, adding that he received three reports last year of aircraft flying within 100 metres of each other in this region.

Mr. Ripa di Meana, who is to present his report to his transport committee later this month, said officials of the International Civil Aviation Organisation did not regard the extent of radar cover as a safety problem but as a factor determining allowable plane density.

He disagreed with this assessment, saying the extensive checks possible with radar made it important to aircraft safety.

Italy, Spain and Portugal have already embarked on upgrading their facilities, while the European Investment Bank has begun helping to finance new radar systems in Greece, which Mr. Ripa di Meana said needed to extensively modernise its approach and route

controls.

Investigations are continuing in Spain into the runway crash in December and another disaster in November when a Colombian Airlines Jumbo Jet crashed on approach to Madrid Airport, killing 181 people.

But a Spanish Civil Aviation spokesman said his country's airports were now safe and declared that its new air traffic control system would be among the most advanced in Europe.

He told Reuters that a 56-million scheme leading to automation of all air traffic control in Spain would be completed by 1988, allowing controllers to handle up to 550 planes in the air at one time.

Madrid Airport authorities, meanwhile, said they were studying the possibility of eventually installing ground radar, although they said the airport averaged only 15 days of fog a year.

A Portuguese airports authority spokesman said a computerised air traffic control system is due to begin working next year, when Lisbon is also scheduled to get

new equipment for bad weather takeoffs and landings, currently banned at Portuguese airports.

A spokesman for Italy's Air Traffic Service ITAV said that a multi-radar tracking system starting in the spring would by next year leave only small gaps of Italian airspace uncovered by centralised radar.

Mr. Ripa di Meana said International Air Transport Association figures showed the number of near misses between aircraft in the 10-nation Community, Spain and Portugal fell steadily from 291 in 1977 to 177 in 1982.

West Germany had the greatest number of near misses in 1982 with 40, followed by Spain (35), France (31) and Britain (21). But Spain had the worst record for cases with the highest risk — 15, compared with 11 for France and four each for West Germany and Greece.

Mr. Ripa di Meana said military planes were involved in more than 30 per cent of near misses and he urged better coordination of military and civilian aviation to cut the risk.

Fresh French interest in UFO

By Marc Niederhauser

PARIS — Fresh interest in unidentified flying objects (UFO) is being sparked in France with attention focused on a man's claim that he saw a flying saucer land in his garden.

A spate of recent sightings in France have been largely explained away, but the country's space agency (CNES) says these have renewed interest in the man's claims.

His story has gained more credence than most because an official group staffed with scientists devoted to investigating unexplained phenomena has concluded something really did happen.

The group is known officially as GEPAN, the Groupe d'Etudes des Phenomenes Aero spatiaux Non-identifies (the study group on unidentified flying objects).

Most sightings are easily explained, but GEPAN, which is a subsidiary of the space agency, says "a major event" took place near the village of Tans-en-Provence in southern France three years ago.

What made the claims of Ren-

ato Nicolai, a 55-year-old stonemason, different from most UFO reports were the strange clues the "object" left behind in his back garden.

A GEPAN report published last year quotes Mr. Nicolai as saying he saw a flattened circular object land in his garden. There was no smoke or flame, just a slight whistling.

He watched the object he thought was a new tape of military craft for about 40 seconds in all.

The suddenly the craft he described as 2.5 metres (eight feet) wide and 1.7 metres (five feet) thick quickly took off vertically, leaving, according to the scientists, a circular mark on the ground.

GEPAN said Mr. Nicolai was at first reluctant to report what he had been but his wife convinced him he should, and he eventually spoke to police and the scientists.

The report said soil analysis of the circular mark showed that friction and a temperature of up to 600 degrees Centigrade (1,100 degrees Fahrenheit) had been applied.

Even more startling, the report

concluded from analysis of surrounding vegetation that grass was affected as if it had been submitted to high temperatures without burning and to an unusual level of radiation. In the younger plants, nearly half of the chlorophyll had been oxidised.

A CNES spokesman said there was no reason to doubt the mason's testimony. However, the GEPAN report acknowledged its findings posed more questions than it answered.

The spokesman said an average of one hundred serious sightings are reported each year to GEPAN, but like those in southern France recently the "UFOs" often turn out to be satellites re-entering the atmosphere or weather balloons.

Three months ago thousands of people reported strange craft in the skies over Brittany, but the French Defence Ministry said it had just tested its new "M-4" nuclear missiles for submarines.

GEPAN, which was set up in 1977 and has a modest budget of 500,000 francs (\$58,000) a year, investigates every sighting and its reports are sold widely overseas.

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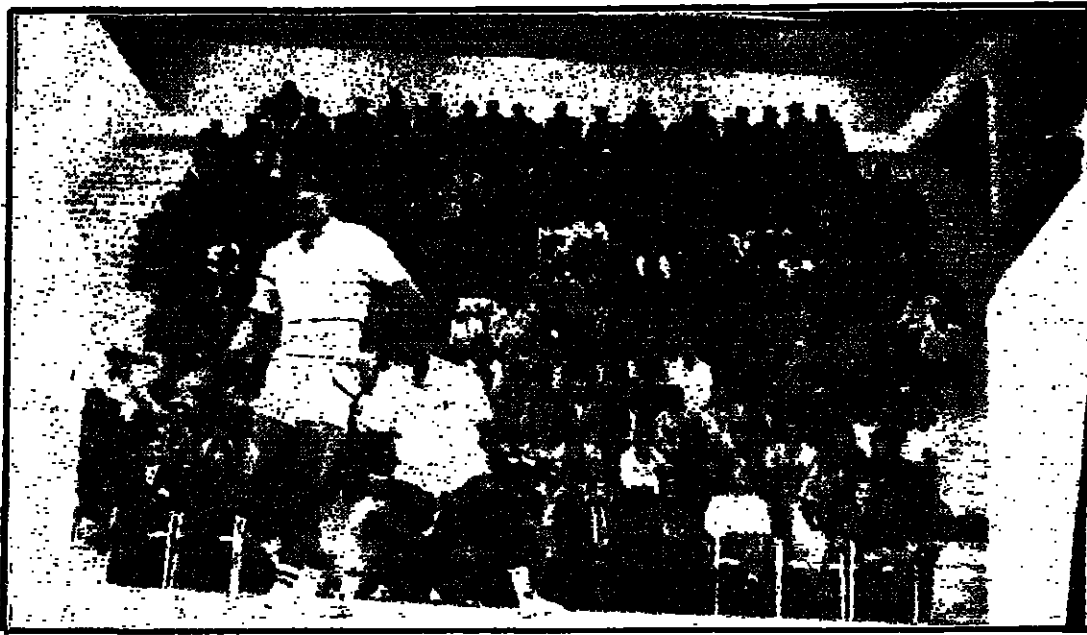
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Ahmed, Zaman to clash in squash final

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The semi-finals of the Second Asian Squash Championship were held at the Sports City Friday in front of capacity crowds. Maqsood Ahmed, world No. 6 from Pakistan defeated Raj Manchanda from India in straight sets 9-1, 9-1, 9-1.



Maqsood Ahmed (left) displaying his power against India's Raj Manchanda in the semi-finals of the 2nd Asian Squash Championship. (Photo by Yusef Al-Allan)

Pakistan's Qamar Zaman, world No. 2, who is seeded to win the individual tournament, beat Fahim Gul, world number 20 from Pakistan 10-8, 9-2, 10-6 in an exciting and well contested match.

In the first match of the semi-finals, 38-year-old Raj Manchanda had difficulty in maintaining the pace set by Maqsood Ahmed whose stamina and skill outstripped that of Manchanda.

The Zaman-Gul match proved fast and exciting and despite the inevitable outcome Fahim Gul fought hard and managed to take the lead in the first game 8-6 before dropping 4 consecutive points to lose the first set 10-8. The crowd clearly appreciated Gul's efforts and rapturously applauded his better shots. In the second set Gul noticeably slackened his pace and Zaman quickly gained a 6-0 lead before Gul managed to gain two points and hold two game points before losing 9-2. Fahim Gul got off to a better start in the final set, holding the score at 2-3 and fought hard to try and gain a lead when the score stayed at 6-6 for 6 serves.

However, Zaman's experience led him to win the final set 10-6 and take the match. Zaman will meet Maqsood Ahmed in the singles final today (Saturday) to be held at 6 p.m. in the international court at Sports City.

Fahim Gul, who is the trainer for the national Jordanian team, ranked 16th in the world last year but dropped to 20th position due to his absence from international tournaments. However, his performances in the Second Asian Squash Championship may affect his standing, especially his victory over Gogi Alaudin, world number 18 from Pakistan, whom Gul beat 9-5, 6-9, 9-5, 9-5 in the quarter finals held on Thursday. This was the closest and most exciting match of the championship, highlighting the skill of both players and providing excellent viewing of international squash for the audience.

The team events start today, Saturday between Pakistan and Bahrain at 9.30 a.m. in the preliminary rounds. Three members from each of the seven teams will be representing their countries in

the tournament, the final of which will be played on January 26.

World Champion Jahanjir Khan of Pakistan was expected to arrive Friday according to the Vice President of the Jordanian Squash Federation, Abed El Razak M. Hunzari, who said that a delegation went to the Queen Alia Airport to meet him.

Jahanjir Khan is expected to participate in the team events of the championship.

Correction: It was wrongly reported in the Jordan Times of January 19 that Qamar Zaman is ranked 4th in the world. He is in fact number two in the world.

Moscow criticises State Department over Olympics

MOSCOW (R) — A top Soviet sports official Thursday strongly criticised the U.S. State Department for what he described as interference in arrangements for this year's Los Angeles Olympic Games.

The chairman of the Soviet Olympic Committee, Marat Gramov, told reporters the State Department had objected to a confidential document listing Soviet worries over the games, which the Los Angeles Organising Committee Chairman had signed.

Speaking at a press conference, Gramov said the state department

had told Soviet diplomats in the United States that the Los Angeles official did not have the authority to sign the protocol.

Under the Olympic Charter the games are awarded to a city and not a country. All arrangements are supposed to be made and carried out by the city's Olympic committee with minimal help from the national government.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Moscow had no comment on Gramov's remarks at the conference, called to discuss Soviet participation in the Sarajevo Winter Games next month.

Snow question hangs over Monte Carlo Motor Rally

PARIS (R) — About 200 cars will roar off from eight different European towns and cities at the start of the 52nd Monte Carlo Motor Rally on Sunday, unsure of whether there will be any snow to test their ability.

As in last year's rally, the main duel will be between the four-wheel-drive Audi Quattros and the Italian Lancia 037s.

The snow, or lack of it, will play a crucial role in the outcome. If it snows the West German Quattros will have the edge with their tenacious grip, but if the roads are clear the Lancias will be seeking to repeat their double success of last year when West German star Walter Roehrl and Finn Markku Alen took first and second place.

This year Roehrl, who won in 1980 with Fiat 127, 1982 with an Opel and last year with a Lancia, has switched to Audi and heads a formidable three-car challenge with Hannu Mikkola of Finland and Swedish star Stig Blomqvist.

Although France has had un-

seasonally mild weather for most of December and January, snow fell for the first time this winter in Paris and central France on Thursday.

Unlike previous years there will not be a time trial in the first section, so the departure has been put back a day to Sunday.

Cars will leave from Raasdunek in the Netherlands, Bad Homburg in West Germany, Barcelona, Lausanne, London, Sestri in Italy, Monte Carlo itself and Paris.

All competitors are scheduled to arrive in Aix-les-Bains, in southern France on Monday morning.

Although 237 competitors have been registered with the Automobile Club de Monaco, the organisers said they expected only about 210 to 220 cars to start, given the rate of forfeits in previous years.

During the rally, which ends in the principality on Friday, there will be 30 timed stages and 20 straightforward stages in the common part of the route from Aix-

les-Bains. If previous years are anything to go by, around 100 cars are expected to make it to Monte Carlo for traditional final time trials.

France's official Renault team will not be entering its turbo-powered Renault fives this year, although there will be some of the squat little cars entered privately.

Opel have also decided not to enter an official team this year, leaving the field to the West German-Italian battle.

Heading the Italian Lancia challenge will be Ales, Italy's Arrigo Bettiga and French star Jean Claude Andruet.

In the absence of the official Renault team the flag will be carried by Jean Luc Therier, Francois Chatriot and Bruno Saby, who are reckoned to have the best chance of any of the private entrants.

In Group 'A' for mass-produced cars, Kenya's Shekhar Mehta is entering a Japanese-built Subaru and French actor Jean-Louis Trintignant will be driving an Alfa-Romeo.

Wolves seeks to consolidate on Liverpool win

LONDON (R) — A week after pulling off one of the shock results of the season, Wolverhampton Wanderers are determined to demonstrate Saturday that last Saturday's 1-0 away win over English Soccer Champions Liverpool was no mere fluke.

Graham Hawkins, manager of bottom-of-the-table Wolves, appeared to be speaking more in hope than expectation when he said before the Liverpool match that his team could win. But there is now every indication that the club are on the

brink of a revival and that they can desert last place in the first division by beating Luton, the visitors to Molineux on Saturday.

"Beating Liverpool was a marvellous achievement," said Hawkins. "We have set our standard now for the rest of the season and we must not let it drop."

"There is still a big leeway to make up. But if we can show the same application we did at Liverpool, all is not lost."

Ironically, Steve Maradenborough, the 19-year-old striker who scored against Liverpool,

is not expected to play against Luton with fit-again Wayne Clarke likely to keep him out.

Manchester United manager Ron Atkinson is predicting a much tighter finish to the first division championship race than last season when Liverpool won by 11 points.

United are currently in second place, two points behind Liverpool who were playing Aston Villa Friday night. "I would love to see the others up there at our expense."

United's prospects of catching Liverpool will be clearer after their home match Saturday against Southampton.

Southampton, six points adrift of Liverpool in sixth place, will be without their excellent midfielder player Steve Williams who starts a two-match suspension. But striker Alan Curtis, whose hamstring injury is on the mend, may return to help Southampton defend an eight-game unbeaten run.

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Lotus maintains top speeds in Formula One tests

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Lotus' new Formula One car, driven for the first time by Britain's Nigel Mansell, clocked the fastest time for the fourth consecutive day during tyre tests at the Jacarepagua track here on Thursday.

Mansell went round the 5.031-km circuit in one minute 31.70 seconds.

Team-mate Elio de Angelis of Italy, who put up the fastest time on each of the first three days — the best being 1:30.65 on Wednesday — has flown home, leaving Mansell to test the car.

Team manager Peter Warr said this week there was nothing radically new about the car, which was a development of ideas the team had last season on weight distribution and aerodynamics.

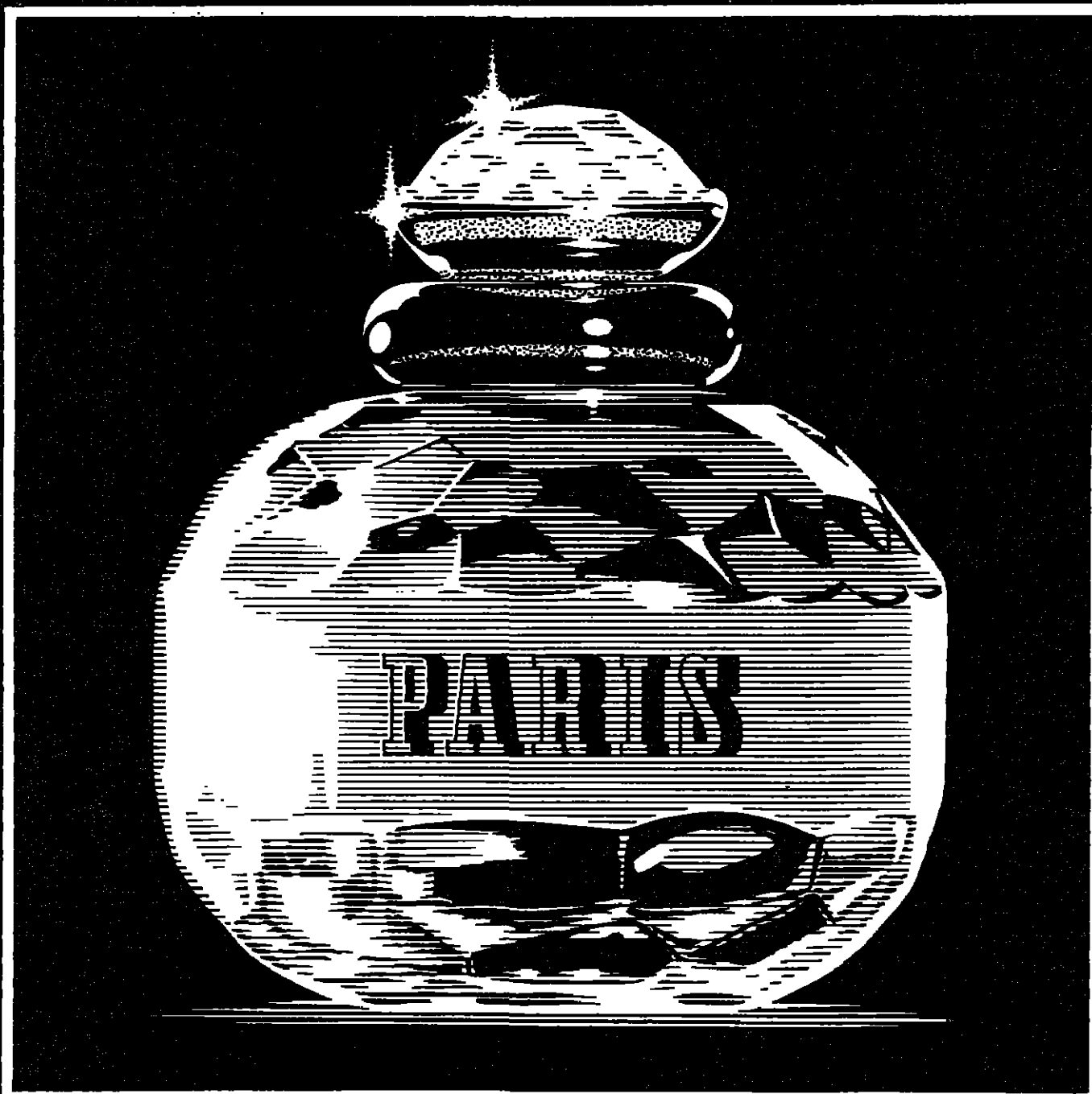
Many of the world's Formula One teams are here to prepare their cars for the Brazilian Grand Prix, the first of the 1984 Motor Racing Championship, on March 25. Summer temperatures often reach more than 40 degrees centigrade.

Second best time Thursday was 1:32.63 by Italy's Michele Alboreto in a Ferrari.

Brazilian Ayrton Senna, newcomer to the circuit, notched the third best time of 1:35.84 on his first test outing in a Formula One car, having signed for Toleman in December.

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E.C. warns U.S. over textile rules

GENEVA (R) — The European Community (E.C.) has warned the United States it will retaliate if it by new import rules on textiles, trade sources said Thursday.

The warning was issued at private talks before an emergency meeting of the textile committee of GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, called Thursday to discuss the measures, the sources said.

The U.S. rules, announced on Dec. 16, set standards to determine when textile imports threaten to disrupt domestic production, opening the way for specific curbs on imports.

During Thursday's closed meeting, a number of nations including China protested that the rules were contrary to the spirit of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), which governs most of world trade in textiles and clothing.

U.S. delegate Mr. Richard Lmus said the rules were meant to spur domestic textile trade and avoid unacceptable disruption of the U.S. market, the sources said.

He said U.S. imports of textiles and clothing were up 24 per cent last year over 1982, and 50 per cent over the last 3 years, thus far exceeding growth in the domestic market.

The U.S. rules assume the market is being disrupted if total textile imports grow by more than 30 per cent a year or exceed 1/5 of domestic production, or if imports from an individual country exceed 1 per cent of domestic production.

Mr. Lmus said the measures "do not change our basic commitment to implement our programme in accordance with the MFA and our bilateral agreements."

Pakistan delegate Mr. Mohammad Bajwa, speaking in the name of exporting developing countries, said Washington had set a "dangerous precedent" in imposing unilateral interpretations.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The Financial Times share index Friday hit a further record high as investors continued institutional buying support, although interest was more selective, dealers said.

The F.T. index at 1500 was up 6.2 to a record 830.1. This reflects sharp gains in a few stocks such as London Brick, T.I. group, Bowater and THF, dealers said. Overall gains and losses among leading shares were about evenly split.

Government bonds eased in this trade, with long dates down by as much as 1/4 point. Gold shares were lower and North Americans mixed.

Leading industrials had Bowater up 14p at 305 as bid hopes prompted further U.S. buying, London Brick 11p higher at 157 following clearance for the bid from Hanson Trust, and T.I. group up 6p at 198 after 202. Davy Corp rose 9p to 61p on interim results with a maintained dividend, but ICI fell 4p to 632.

Press stocks met renewed demand ahead of any Reuters flotation, with Fleet 16p up at 176 after 185. Eitel rose 37p to 510. Firm banks had Lloyds and Natwest each 10p higher. Insurances also gained.

In firm oils, Lasso gained 11p at 326 on hopes of U.K. oil finds, while Atlantic Resources rose 90p to 648.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
One sterling	1.8175/85	Canadian dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2446/49	West German marks
	2.7933/43	Dutch guilders
	3.1400/10	Swiss francs
	2.2240/50	Belgian francs
	57.02/07	French francs
	8.5500/30	Italian lire
	1703.25/1704.25	Japanese yen
	233.50/60	Swedish crowns
	8.1500/1600	Norwegian crowns
	7.8200/8300	Danish crowns
	10.1200/1300	
One ounce of gold	373.25/373.75	

Japan plans small budget rise

TOKYO (R) — Japan's finance ministry told the cabinet Friday it wants a smaller rise in defence spending this financial year, signalling the start of arguments among ministers considering the budget.

Officials said the cabinet: was told the increase should be 5.1 per cent, well below the 7 per cent sought by the forces and the 6.5 per cent in the current period.

The military had been offered 2,896 billion yen (\$12.43 billion), with the increase one of the lowest in 2 decades, they said.

Defence chiefs say they need new equipment because of a growing Soviet military presence around Japan.

The United States wants Japan to boost its strength so that American forces can be redeployed closer to the Gulf.

One thorny issue for the cabinet is an air force request for 21 new U.S. F-15 fighters, each costing about \$40 million. The finance ministry has said no.

The navy wants more money to comply with U.S. requests for Tokyo to do more to defend sear lanes 1,000 miles from Japan.

If the finance ministry proposal is accepted by ministers, defence spending would represent just under 6 per cent of total planned government expenditure in the coming year, compared with 18 per cent for welfare payments and 9.5 per cent for education.

The finance ministry proposes to allocate 535 billion yen (\$2.3 billion) for foreign aid, 6 per cent increase on last year, officials said.

Meanwhile, the Japanese finance ministry Thursday decided to propose a 1984/85 budget totalling about 50,627 billion yen (\$218 billion) which represents the lowest year-on-year rise in 29 years, ministry sources said.

The cabinet is expected to approve the ministry's overall budget plan prior to notifications from other ministries and agencies of their respective outlays in the year, beginning next April 1.

The proposed framework will be only 0.5 per cent bigger than the original 1983/84 budget of 50,379 billion yen (\$216 billion), the lowest increase since 1955/56 when the budget was cut by 0.8 per cent from a year earlier.

The ministry also decided to call for a supplementary budget of 460 billion yen (nearly \$2 billion) for the current year, ending March 31, mainly to finance natural disaster rehabilitation projects, the sources said.

Early Thursday the government approved economic projections for the coming financial year with Japan's economy expected to grow by 4.1 per cent in real terms, compared with an estimated 3.4 per cent rise in its Gross National Product (GNP).

Government economists said in a report to the cabinet Thursday that the expected improvement in the economy, which has been sluggish since the 1979 oil crisis, would stem largely from increased consumer spending in Japan.

The cabinet-approved outlook estimated the country's trade surplus with the rest of the world in the new fiscal year at \$34 billion, unchanged from a revised 1983/84 estimate.

The government had originally expected the surplus in the current year to stand at \$20 billion.

Private economists have been warning that trade friction with Japan's major trading partners such as the United States and Europe will aggravate, given the expected sharp rise in the trade surplus in an election year in America, which suffers from a lop-sided trade imbalance with Japan.

Under the finance ministry's plan, the budget's general expenditures, which the government is free to adjust in line with its policies, will actually fall 0.1 per cent to 32,586 billion yen (\$140 billion), the sources said.

84 estimate.

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Inflation predicted to rise

The government also predicted that the inflation rate, now one of the lowest in the industrial world at about 2 per cent, would rise slightly to 2.8 per cent.

Final details of the budget are expected to be announced on Jan. 25. Political sources have forecast cuts in income taxes but higher levies on industry, liquor and cars.

Pravda urges more help for private farms

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda Friday spoke out strongly in favour of encouraging private farming plots by providing a much greater range of small-scale agricultural equipment.

In a commentary which praised the output of family small holdings, the newspaper said their production could be even higher if they were able to buy machinery such as mini-tractors and excavators.

More than 35 million rural families operate their own plots, either rearing livestock or growing crops and flowers.

Covering only 3 per cent of Soviet farming land, they provide nearly 30 per cent of the country's food supplies.

Although it gave little encouragement to private farming in the past, the Kremlin leadership has now ruled that it is a valuable and highly productive sector of the farming economy.

The Pravda article complained that although the authorities were calling for practical support for the small plots, industry had so far made no moves to turn out the kind of gear which would mechanise work on them.

Japex hits oil in Oman

MUSCAT (R) — Japan Petroleum Exploration Company (Japex) has made a promising oil find in the Mazoon area of Oman, about 270 kilometres west of the capital, Muscat, industry sources said Thursday.

They said the company's experts were assessing the commercial viability of the find, in Japex's 3,700 square kilometres concession, which was granted in July 1981. Japex is one of several foreign firms drilling for oil in Oman. Others include Gulf Petroleum Oman, Japan Petroleum Development Company and British Petroleum.

24 African states face grave food shortages

NAIROBI (R) — 24 African countries from Zimbabwe in the south to Ethiopia in the east are facing grave food shortages, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Thursday.

In a report issued in Nairobi and at its headquarters in Rome, the FAO said it needed 1.6 million tons of food and almost \$100 million in aid to meet needs caused by drought, livestock disease and civil strife.

The countries in most urgent of help are drought-hit Lesotho and Mozambique, and Tanzania, which has been hit by the grain-attacking borer beetle.

The report, the third issued by a so-called FAO task force since an African food crisis became apparent last year, said cereal output in the afflicted states as a whole was estimated to have dropped to 16.2 million tons in 1983 from 17.6 million in 1982 and 19.7 million in 1981.

The total cereal import needs of the 24 states are estimated at 5.3 million tons of which 3.4 million tons are expected to come in the form of food aid.

"Known food aid pledges so far total 1.75 million tons. Thus even though donor pledges have increased threefold there remains a food aid gap of 1.6 million tons," the report said.

Of this the FAO said some 700,000 tons had to be delivered before the end of March.

"There is an urgent need to increase further the allocations of food aid and to expedite deliveries of pledged assistance to a number of countries," it said.

African per capita food production has declined in the past few years, according to the U.N.'s World Food Council, and this trend has been aggravated by one of the worst droughts to hit parts of Africa in 20 years.

Of the required 1.6 million tons of additional food aid, 885,000 tons are needed in West Africa, 430,000 tons in East Africa and 290,000 tons in Southern and Central Africa.

The afflicted countries are: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Upper Volta, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Wheat council predicts record '84 world crop

LONDON (R) — World wheat production is still on course for a record 500 million tonnes harvest in 1984, the International Wheat Council (IWC) said Thursday.

World output for 1983 is expected to be around 487 million tonnes, the IWC added.

Soviet wheat imports are expected to rise slightly in the year ending July, 1984 to 18 million tonnes from the 17.5 million forecast last month, the IWC said.

Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Kostandov has said that the country's 1983 grain harvest should be the third best in the past 8 years, with a predicted crop of between 195 and 223 million tonnes.

In 1981 and 1982 the harvests were so bad that the figures have never been published in official records.

The council said last month that a harvest of this size would exceed world consumption, estimated at around 483 million tonnes, and industry sources have said the rise in world stocks would result in a continuation of the present world glut.

With two-thirds of winter wheat sowings completed, the council said in a report that events to date seemed to support its prediction last month of a record world crop, with high sowings and generally favourable weather reported in the Soviet Union, the European Community, China and India.

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Filipinos may lose jobs

MANILA (R) — Philippine Labour Minister Blas Ople said Thursday about 68,000 workers might be laid off in the first quarter of the year because of the country's financial crisis.

He told a group of businessmen that the estimate was based on a survey conducted by his office, and was now being validated through checks with the firms covered by the survey.

The financial crisis has stalled the importation of some raw materials required by industry, forcing many manufacturing firms either to close shops or slow down operations.

However, Mr. Ople said there were optimistic trends observable in some industries, such as garments and electronics, which he said were experiencing increased demand from abroad, and were recalling workers earlier laid off.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 21, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to get into the various odds and ends and the details of work and everyday living that may be difficult to accomplish during the busy week. Show others more courtesy.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) All kinds of tasks can be handled today, whether at home or in the outside world. Get an early start on them.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Go to beauty or barber shop today and improve your appearance to look more charming. Goad about socially and make new contacts.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Many small tasks are awaiting your attention at home, so get right at them and they are soon out of the way.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Fine day for handling correspondence, statements, travel plans etc. Then you can get out and go visiting.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Handle any accounts and reports for which you have had little time during the busy week. Take any needed health treatments.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Improve your appearance and then handle personal problems wisely. Know who it is you want in your life for the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Those petty annoyances in your life need to be handled meticulously now and gotten rid of quickly. Money can't buy everything.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) It is important that you handle every time precisely when going after your special goals if you are to make headway.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Getting shopping, marketing and other outside duties handled early is wise. Don't procrastinate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Some new interest can be investigated today. Get at this early and find the right source of data you need.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Some special attention to business and financial affairs now can make the days ahead much brighter. Handle small duties now.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan how to have greater accord with associates in the future and gain their added cooperation. Carry through meticulously.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be capable of making a plan and then carrying through with it in a most meticulous way. Early teach the right principles that will make it possible to deal with any eventuality that may arise. Teach not to criticize.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KLEAN
TYMPE
VEEBAH
NEAFED

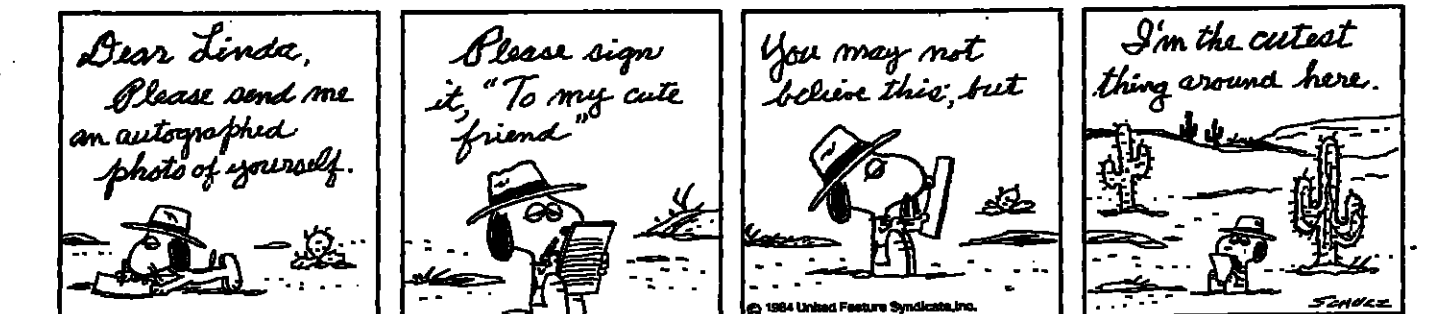
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

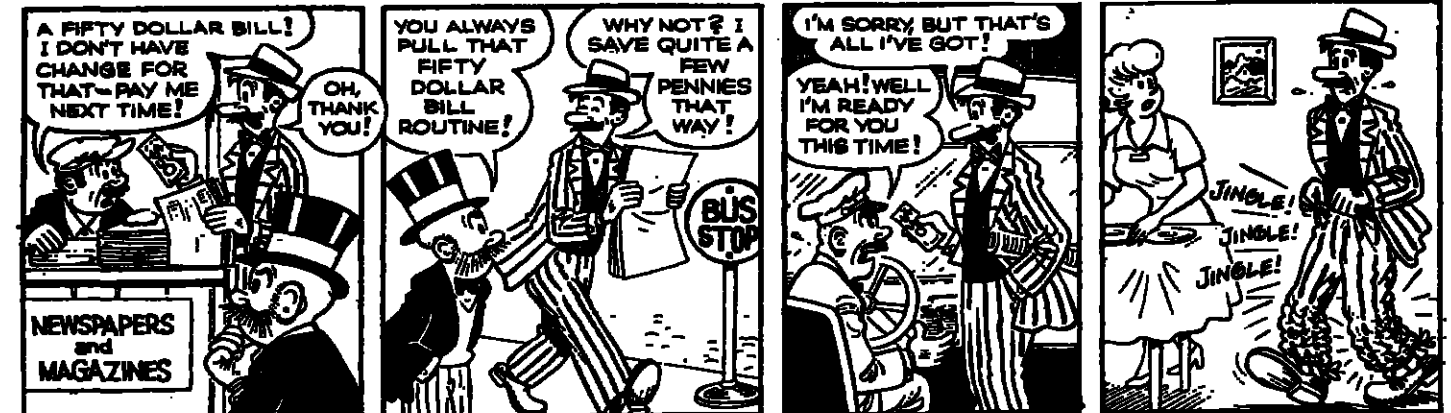
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: USURP OFTEN POCKET NOODLE
Answer: If you want to buy a good wig, you sure have this — TOUPEE FOR IT

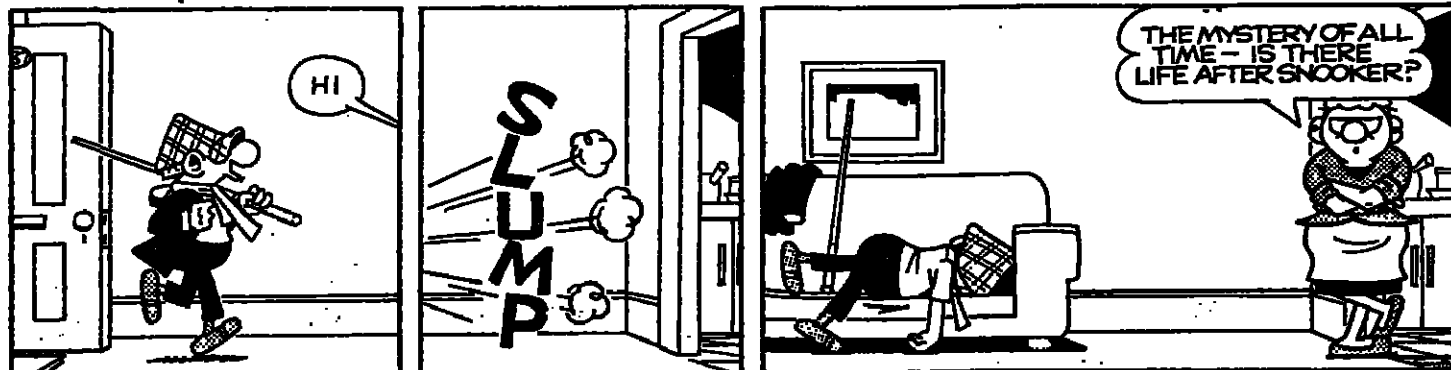
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

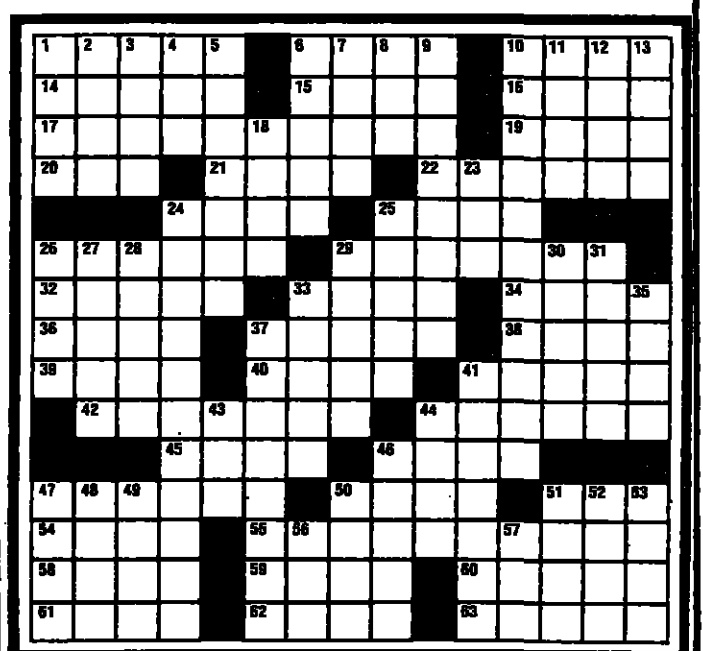


THE Daily Crossword

by John H. Hales

ACROSS

- Part of A.E.S.
- Platter
- "Damn Yankees" character
- Become informed
- Sailors' saint
- Yemen port
- Warm ocean current
- Artist Rockwell
- Sly — fox
- off (rate)
- Suit
- Dominic
- Secular
- Literary groups
- Low-lying areas
- Circa
- Additional
- Bedouin
- Important
- Diminished
- Coolidge of song
- Assay
- Responsibility
- Northern highway
- Places in confinement
- Gathers wheat
- Herb used in pickling
- Diaries
- Rabbit hut
- Fork part
- Sayings
- Take — view of
- Columbia feeder
- Sled
- Adjective suffix
- Motionless
- River duck
- Biblical
- Murderer
- Certain coiffures
- DOWN
- Water plant
- ex machine
- Old song refrain
- Dog talk
- Kind of tea
- Bo
- Three
- Live!
- Wee, to Sandy
- Collared
- Louisiana city
- Concert halls
- Camera eye
- Poker money
- Hardy girl
- Flourish
- Ill. city
- and penates
- Cure
- "— Irish Rose"
- Unfettered
- vivendi
- Health plant
- Archliend
- Painter
- Edouard
- Intercourse
- Used in courts
- Mediterranean land
- deus, time
- Disappeared
- Examine side
- Disney
- Together, in music
- Battle gull
- Ankle bones
- Maintain
- "Quo Vadis" role
- Cultural pursuits
- Hoop group
- Military arm: abbr.



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Gromyko leaves for home

Howe calls for wider East-West dialogue

STOCKHOLM (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko left for home Friday after castigating U.S. policies at a European Disarmament Conference and holding a series of talks with Western ministers.

The lengthy contacts indicated a slight upturn in the frosty state of East-West relations, despite a polemical tone in Mr. Gromyko's speech to the conference on Wednesday and continued U.S.-Soviet deadlock over nuclear missiles.

As the 35-state gathering neared the end of an opening week of ministerial speeches, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe called for a broadening of the East-West dialogue.

He said there had been no significant progress in negotiated arms control for the past five years.

"Arms control negotiations alone cannot and should not have to bear the full weight of East-West relations," he said. "The dialogue between East and West must be widened and given more substance."

On Thursday the Warsaw Pact told NATO it was ready to resume

talks with the West on reducing conventional forces in Europe but Western leaders said no progress had been made over negotiating the central issue of medium-range nuclear missiles.

After the latest reaction by the Soviet Union to the deployment of new U.S. missiles in West Europe, Western diplomats in Moscow said the Kremlin seemed ready for a long period of tension.

At the disarmament conference in Stockholm West Germany followed up President Reagan's conciliatory tone to the Soviet Union by calling for a new start in East-West relations and some officials saw grounds for optimism in the Warsaw Pact's move over conventional forces.

Western diplomats said the East Bloc proposed March 15 as the date for resuming the Vienna talks which it allowed to lapse on Dec. 15 — one of three arms control forums Moscow suspended late



British Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe (right) and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko (left) Thursday hold bilateral talks at the Soviet Embassy in Stockholm (AP wire photo).

last year.

Senior West European officials saw this as a positive sign and said hardly more could have been expected from the first major East-West meeting in four months of deepening tension.

But NATO leaders expressed little confidence about quick developments on nuclear missiles.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said "there was absolutely no movement" on the missile issue in his talks Wednesday with Mr. Gromyko.

Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, summing up West European feelings after meeting Mr. Gromyko, said: "The West should not harbour too many illusions about how fast the Soviet Union is willing to break out of its

isolation after such a long period."

In Geneva NATO Secretary-General Joseph Luns saw little chance of an early resumption of missile talks and dismissed any idea the Western alliance might be willing to freeze deployments of its new missiles to persuade Moscow to return to the table.

A second announcement from Moscow about new missile deployments in East Germany and Czechoslovakia seemed set to underline a grim mood in the West about the future of the nuclear missile talks.

Western diplomats in Moscow said the timing appeared designed to tell the West the Soviet Union was ready for a long period of tension and to shatter any hopes in NATO it might be ready to soften

its stand.

The deployments followed earlier Moscow warnings it was planning to move new nuclear weapons into its two allied states in response to the deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe.

It has made clear there would be no going back to negotiations over medium-range missiles before the U.S. withdraws its new missiles.

About future moves Mr. Shultz said it remained to be seen whether there would be other high-level U.S.-Soviet contacts at least before October.

He also said he was unable to forecast whether his talks with Mr. Gromyko marked the beginning of a thaw in relations.

Poland increases military spending by 13.9 per cent

WARSAW (R) — Poland published defence spending estimates Friday which indicated a sharp rise in the military's share of the national budget despite the country's economic crisis.

Newspapers reported that defence in 1984 would cost 218.7 billion zlotys (\$2.3 billion), an increase of 13.9 per cent over 1983. No figure was given for the proportion of the budget being spent but informed sources said it represented 8.2 per cent compared with only 7.1 per cent last year. The share of national income rose from 3.07 to 4.04 per cent.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said the size of the armed forces, the largest in the Warsaw Pact after those of the Soviet Union, was secret.

Latest figures provided by the London-based Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS) said there were 340,000 men in the army, navy and air force. 190,000 of them conscripts.

The figures showed a growth of about 20,000 men in the highly-trained army since martial law was declared in 1981. Although martial law was lifted last July, the army has kept an increased role in public life.

U.S. eases sanctions

WASHINGTON (R) — President

Reagan has eased some economic sanctions he imposed against Poland when the Warsaw government declared martial law in 1981, the White House announced Thursday.

Spokesman Larry Speakes said the action, responding to an appeal by Lech Walesa, former leader of the banned Solidarity Union, restored Polish fishing rights in American waters and authorised a limited number of Polish charter flights to the United States this year.

Officials said they did not anticipate any further easing of sanctions in the near future.

The move came two months after Mr. Reagan agreed to negotiate the rescheduling of Poland's 1981 debt to the U.S. government of about \$800 million.

The officials said other, more severe sanctions against Poland would remain in effect even though martial law was abolished in the East Bloc country last year.

The remaining sanctions include a freeze on U.S. government trade credits and loans, the suspension of tariff concessions, the banning of operations by the Polish State Airline LOT in the United States, the curtailment of food shipments except for humanitarian purposes, and a ban on scientific exchanges.

Australia offers \$45,000 reward to trap extortionist

BRISBANE (R) — Australia's Queensland state government Friday offered a \$45,000 dollar (\$45,000) reward to trap an extortionist threatening to infect millions of cattle and sheep with killer foot and mouth disease.

State Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen announced the reward for information after receiving an anonymous letter on Monday stating that the disease would be spread if prison reforms were not implemented in his state within the next 12 weeks.

He also offered to recommend a pardon for any Queensland prisoners who provided vital information on the threat, which if carried out could be disastrous for Australia's billion dollar meat and wool industries.

The letter said that if prison reforms were not carried out wild pigs would be infected with the disease and they in turn would pass it on to the millions of cattle and sheep which roam Australia's grazing lands.

The highly contagious disease leaves livestock drooling at the mouth, gives them sores on the

hooves, they lose weight and have to be destroyed.

Australian National Health Laboratory head Bill Snowdon said it was feasible for the threat to be carried out but there were contingency plans to eradicate the disease quickly once detected.

Meanwhile Police, Customs and Agriculture Ministry officials were making intensive checks on imported goods at ports and airports to stop a phial of the virus being brought in.

Even scientists are not allowed to import the virus for research. The letter sought the transfer to their own states of any non-Queensland prisoners and said all prison superintendents should have university degrees.

Queensland Prisons Minister Geoff Muntz said the letter was received. He said Australian state governments had already agreed to transfer prisoners back to their own states and Queensland's prison staff were being awarded university scholarships.

SPD wants investigation into Kiessling affair

BONN (R) — West Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) demanded Friday a parliamentary investigation into the controversial sacking last month of General Guenter Kiessling.

Former SPD Defence Minister Hans Apel told a one-hour parliamentary debate the inquiry was vital to bring West Germany and the armed forces out of "this deep crisis of confidence".

Gen. Kiessling, formerly deputy to NATO's supreme commander in Europe, was sacked last month after military intelligence alleged he had compromised his security rating by visiting Cologne bars frequented by homosexuals and criminals.

The 58-year-old general has denied the accusations and taken legal action against Defence Minister Manfred Woerner, demanding rehabilitation.

Pressure on Mr. Woerner increased Thursday when SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel demanded his dismissal during a meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Mr. Kohl stood by the minister.

Mr. Apel accused Mr. Woerner Friday of "chasing (Kiessling) from his post like a dog" and damaging the army's standing in NATO.

Mr. Woerner told parliament he had consulted Gen. Kiessling's colleagues during investigations and they now backed the minister's actions firmly. The general had been clearly identified in two bars, he said.

"Our esteem in the (NATO) alliance is being destroyed. To cover up his own failure, (Woerner) is abandoning a long-serving general in a flood of defamatory speculation and repulsive accusations," Mr. Apel said.

France sets 2-month deadline on Community money crisis

STRASBOURG (R) — France, now president of the European Community, has set a two-month deadline to end the deadlock that has prevented vital reforms of the bloc's near bankrupt finances.

European Affairs Minister Roland Dumas said Wednesday night the Community must aim to find answers at its March summit meeting to problems which defied solution at similar talks in Athens last month.

External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson told European parliamentarians earlier that if the

impasse were not cleared by the end of March the Community could collapse, parliamentary sources said.

The two ministers told journalists that France hoped to breathe new life into the Community before its presidency expires in June, the same month as European parliamentary elections.

Leaders of the 10 Community countries failed in Athens to agree on how to deal with out-of-control farm spending, new revenue and overall budgetary reform to meet British complaints about excessive contributions.

Armenian commando may get life imprisonment

LOS ANGELES (R) — A jury recommended a 20-year-old Armenian, Hampig Sassounian, be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole for the assassination of a Turkish diplomat.

The Turkish consul general in Los Angeles, Kemal Arkan, was shot 14 times while he waited in his car at a traffic stop light on Jan. 18, 1982.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Henry Nelson is almost certain to abide by the jury's decision. Demonstrators supporting Mr. Sassounian paraded peacefully

outside the court building while the jury of eight women and four men considered the penalty.

Deputy District Attorney (prosecutor) Lael Rubin had asked for the death sentence. He told the jury Mr. Sassounian had taken part in the assassination in retribution for what he believed was the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of the Turks in 1915. Successive Turkish governments have denied the allegation.

Police believe a second man sought in the case may have been killed in Lebanon.

Comecon summit said to be delayed

MOSCOW (R) — Plans for a long-awaited economic summit meeting of Communist leaders have been put back because of Soviet President Yuri Andropov's poor health, informed East European sources said Thursday.

They said leaders of the 10-nation Comecon trading alliance had provisionally agreed to meet in the first half of February but that this proposal had now been shelved.

Moscow had informally suggested last month that the meeting might be possible at the end of February, but had so far made no moves to prepare for it, they added.

The sources said an agenda had already been drawn up for the summit and the only cause of the delay was Mr. Andropov's inability to attend at present.

The 69-year-old Kremlin leader has not been seen in public for five months and both Western and East Bloc diplomats believe he is suffering from a relatively serious ailment.

Heseltine visits Falklands

LONDON (R) — Britain's Defence Minister Michael Heseltine, making his first visit to the Falkland Islands, said he had gone there to see how the Thatcher government's Falklands policy was being implemented.

The British Press Association in a despatch from Port Stanley, the island's capital, said he would visit troops and military installations, including a new airport being built to help protect the disputed territory that Argentina and Britain fought over in 1982.

Britain has 4,000 troops, a squadron of fighter-bombers and several navy ships protecting the South Atlantic colony that Argentina claims as the Malvinas. Some 1,400 workers are building a \$300 million airport on the Falklands.

Mr. Heseltine said after landing in an air force plane Thursday night, "I've come to see how the job is being done, and to see the conditions in which our people are carrying out the job they have to do, to talk to them about the sort of money that we are putting in here and to look at the airfield which of course is costing a great deal of money and is a very important aspect of the future of the Falkland Islands."

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government has been criticised by its parliamentary opposition for what it believes is an enormous expense involved in making the Falklands safe from attack.

Doubts voiced over official version of Aquino killing

MANILA (R) — The chairman of a special inquiry into the murder of opposition politician Benigno Aquino said Friday there was evidence to doubt that the officially-named killer actually committed the crime.

Police said Mr. Aquino was murdered by a notorious criminal and Communist guerrilla, identified as Rolando Galman, who was himself shot dead moments later.

But Commission Chairman Corazon Agrava told an unusual open forum session of the three-month-old inquiry, "There is now evidence that puts into doubt that Galman is the killer."

Mrs. Agrava, a former appeals court judge, turned the hearing into an open forum and invited questions from the public when a subpoenaed witness failed to show up.

The questions reflected sustained popular interest in the Philippines' most riveting "who-dunit", ranging from the sympathetic and helpful to the sceptical.

At least one witness has testified that Galman could not have shot Mr. Aquino at Manila Airport on Aug. 21 even though he was standing nearby when guards escorted the former senator from a plane.

Pravda warns China against closer ties with Washington

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet newspaper Pravda said Friday China was allowing itself to be drawn into a closer relationship with Washington and warned Peking this was against its interests.

Commenting on Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang's visit to the United States last week, Pravda said China should realise the United States had no real sympathy with its problems and wanted only to forge a strategic alliance.

Western diplomats said the commentary showed the Soviet leadership had been disturbed by the warm atmosphere that marked Mr. Zhao's visit and by the agreements the two countries signed on closer economic cooperation.

Pravda underlined Moscow's irritation by publishing a fierce Vietnamese attack on Peking alongside its own commentary.

The newspaper said statements from U.S. leaders during Mr. Zhao's visit had shown that Washington was determined to draw China into a close partnership aimed against the Soviet Union.

China was permitting and even encouraging this by siding with the United States on issues where it opposed "the forces of Socialism and progress", Pravda said.

This appeared to be a reference to joint Chinese and U.S. criticism of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and Vietnam's involvement in Kampuchea.

Pravda said China's eagerness to gain access to U.S. technology and to "play the American card" in its relations with Moscow were making it easy for Washington to increase its influence over Peking.

Chinese leaders should realise the Reagan administration was still supporting and arming Taiwan and was thus undermining China's interests.

"The U.S. administration is not interested in the practical solution of problems that are of interest to China. Washington is striving only to bring Peking into its sphere of influence and use U.S.-Chinese relations for its own ends," it said.

U.N. agency says drugs menace hits record level

VIENNA (R) — The illegal narcotics trade and drug abuse has hit record levels around the world and permissive attitudes sweeping Western Europe threaten to make it worse, an authoritative U.N. report said Thursday.

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) annual report said record heroin and cocaine seizures had revealed an alarming growth in narcotics abuse.

Latin America, the Middle East and Asia were singled out by the specialised U.N. agency as the chief culprits providing illegal narcotics for both sides of the Atlantic.

"Drug abuse in most parts of the world continues to deteriorate... more and more countries are afflicted. Drugs of greater potency are more widely available and consumed in more hazardous ways," the report said.

"The most determined action is urgently required to contain and reverse the worsening situation," said the INCB, watchdog for international drugs treaties that try to limit cultivation, production and use of narcotics to medical purposes.

But illicit drug production and trafficking generated enormous criminal profits and could seriously undermine the economic, social and political fabric of countries concerned.

The board said consumption of illegal drugs was increasing in Europe and there was a growth in addiction and drugs-related crimes.

Cannabis was widely used in Western Europe and there was no sign that demand was slackening. Seizures totalling 80 tonnes were made there annually.

Heroin was also a major concern, with supply abundant, prices low and purity high. Over a tonne of heroin was seized in each year. Cocaine abuse had also surged, with 540 kilos seized in the first nine months of 1983.

Eastern Europe was less of a problem and drug abuse was not widespread there. The main con-

tributor to the East Bloc arose from it being a main transit for illegal narcotics.

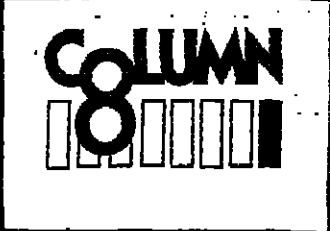
In North America there were serious problems with multiple drug abuse. Main supplies of heroin came from the Middle East but supplies from South East Asia had increased.

Cocaine consumption continued to rise. An estimated 50 tonnes were smuggled into the United States annually.

South America and the Caribbean were cited as the major sources of illicit cocaine for the world. Cultivation acreage of the coca bush was expanding rapidly, especially in Colombia, Bolivia and Peru.

Brazil was being used more and more as a transit for cocaine and chemicals used in its manufacture. Jamaica had become a major source of high potency cannabis for North and South America.

to such an extent that cultivators had built illegal airstrips to export it.



Vatican newspaper condemns horoscope

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican newspaper condemned horoscopes and said Roman Catholics who believe the stars can predict the future commit religious deviation. The Osservatore Romano said belief in astrology contrasted with the fundamental religious principle that only God knows the future of man. Statistics show that people born under the same astrological signs have different characters and different lives, it said. Astrologers who prepare horoscopes for a fee should feel particularly responsible for violating Christian morality.

'Extinct' Tasmanian tiger seen

HOBART, Tasmania (R) — A Tasmanian tiger, a unique marsupial feared extinct for half a century, has been sighted by a wildlife service ranger, the service said Thursday. The tiger, about six feet (1.8 metres) in size from nose to tip of tail, has a tiger-striped back, a dog's face, huge powerful jaws, a tail like a kangaroo and a pouch for carrying its young. A wildlife service spokesman said the ranger saw the tiger, unique to the island of Tasmania off southern Australia, 18 months ago but kept secret to protect the animal. But the tiger, a sheep killer hunted relentlessly in the past, has not been seen again and a more intense search is now being launched in Tasmania's heavy woodland and thick, lush bush.

Soldier says he faked own kidnap

STUTTGART (R) — A U.S. soldier who said last weekend he had been seized by anti-nuclear activists confessed Friday he had faked his own kidnap, police said. Specialist mechanic Liam Fowler, 21, caused a major police investigation when he disappeared a week ago from Schwarzbach Gmund, believed to be the first U.S. base equipped with NATO's controversial Pershing-2 nuclear missiles. Soon after he vanished, he telephoned his wife to say he had been ambushed by six West Germans while driving along a country road and that his "kidnappers" threatened to kill him if reports on nuclear missiles were not published in the U.S. media within 72 hours. Thirty hours after his disappearance a farmer's wife found him asleep in a barn 230 kilometres from the base. He was unharmed but suffering from exposure and was taken to a U.S. military hospital. There was no immediate comment from his unit.

Theft rife in British mortuaries

LONDON (R) — Some British mortuary attendants pillooted private goods from corpses for medical research, a court was told by a superintendent who said theft was rife in British mortuaries. London mortuary attendant Raymond Thomas, 26, admitted taking cash and jewellery from the bodies of people with few relatives and handing stolen coffins. He was jailed for 18 months, nine of which were suspended. The mortuary superintendent, who was found not guilty of inciting Thomas to steal, said dishonesty was so widespread he had thought he would be a millionaire by the time he retired.

Greeks may legalise abortion

ATHENS (R) — Abortion could be legalised in Greece, where illegal abortions far outnumber live births, under a bill prepared by the Socialist government. Justice Ministry sources said Friday. Press reports said the bill would allow state-funded termination of all pregnancies up to three months, provided both parents consent. At present, abortion is allowed only for girls under 16, for the victims of rape or incest, for cases where the mother's mental or physical health is in danger, and for cases where the baby is likely to be born handicapped. But sociologists say 300,000 to 400,000 operations take place each year, against about 150,000 live births, as many couples use abortion as a substitute for contraception. Women's rights activists were expected to give the bill a warm welcome but the Greek Orthodox Church seemed certain to oppose it.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ALWAYS ENOUGH DIAMONDS

North-South vulnerable.

South deals.

NORTH

♠ K J 9 7 5

♥ A 5

♦ K 10 4 2

♣ 8 3

WEST

♠ 6

♥ K J 10 9 4 3

♦ J 5

♣ Q J 10 2

EAST

♠ 4 3

♥ 8 7 2

♦ Q 8 7 6

♣ 9 7 5 4

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 8 2

♥ Q 6

♦ A 9 3

♣ A K 6

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

Here's a hand to test your technique. Can South claim his slam regardless of the minor suit distribution, if we assume that West has the king of hearts for his overcall?

North-South bid well to their slam. North had little to spare for his cue-bid after West's overcall. Nevertheless, he dutifully cue-bid his ace of hearts after South showed he was interested in heart control for a slam. South wisely decided to set-

tle for a small slam.

West led the queen of clubs, taken in the closed hand. How would you proceed?

If West has the king of hearts, you can claim the slam. After winning the first trick, draw trumps, cash your remaining club honor and ruff a club on the table. Now cash the king of diamonds and lead a low diamond toward your hand. If East produces an honor, you win and return the nine of diamonds, and dummy's ten of diamonds is good for a heart discard.

If East follows with a low diamond, play your nine. As the cards lie, West wins the jack, but he is end played. He must either return a heart away from his king or else play a club and give you a ruff-suff.

However, you also make the slam if West has three or more diamonds. In that case, he can return a diamond. If he has three diamonds, the long diamond in dummy sets up for a heart pitch. If he has four or more diamonds, run all your winners and, at the end, West will be squeezed between the king of hearts and his long diamond. Try it.